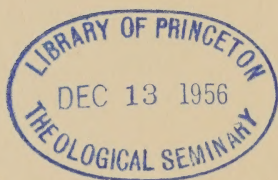
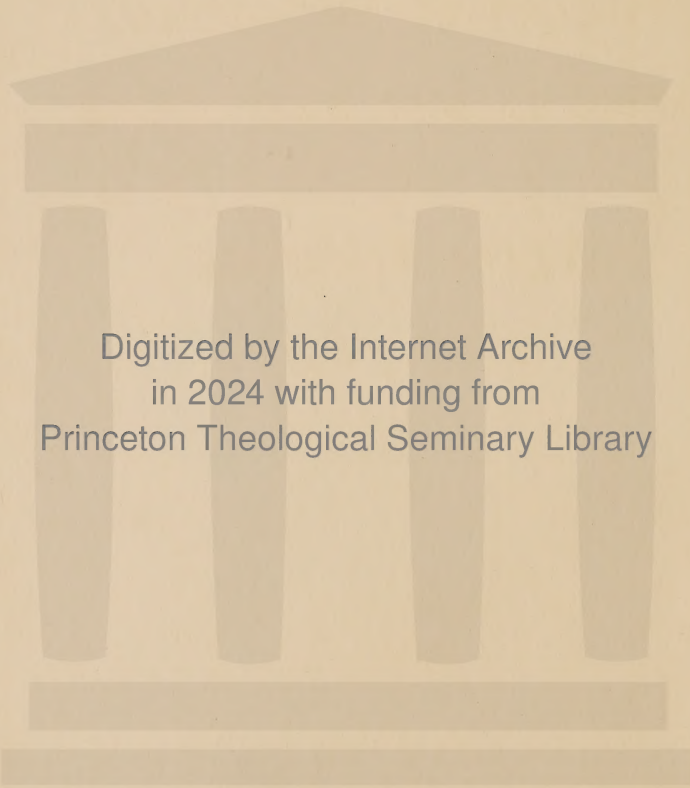


History of
Methodist Churches
and Institutions
In Middle Tennessee

Cullen T. Carter
Editor



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HISTORY OF METHODIST
CHURCHES AND INSTITUTIONS
IN
MIDDLE TENNESSEE
1787-1956

By CULLEN T. CARTER
EDITOR

The Parthenon Press
Nashville

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TENNESSEE CONFERENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

THIS VOLUME
IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED TO MY WIFE
MARY LUCY CHRISTOPHER CARTER
WHO FOR FIFTY YEARS HAS BEEN MY
CONSTANT INSPIRATION AND COUNSELOR

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AUTHOR OF

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History of Triune Methodist Church—1954 (*Manuscript*)

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

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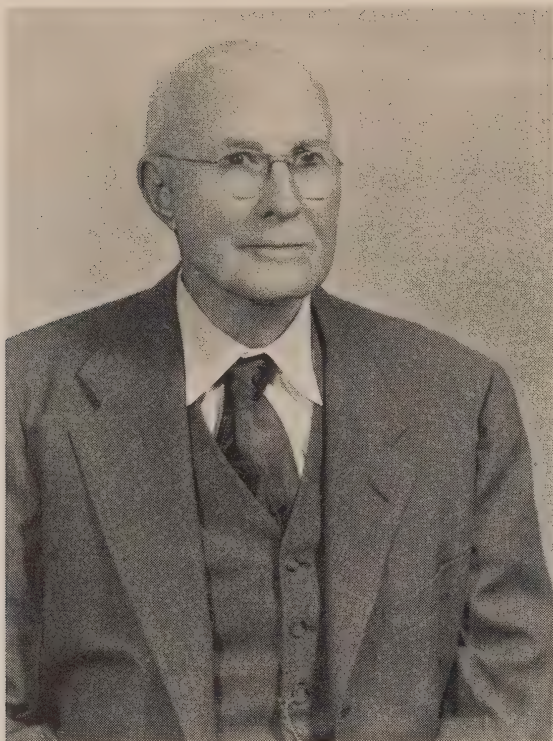
EDITOR

HISTORY OF METHODIST CHURCHES AND
INSTITUTIONS IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE—1956



The Cabinet 1955-1956

From left to right—front row: Rev. E. U. Robinson, Cumberland District; Rev. J. E. Broyles, Mount Pleasant District; Bishop Roy H. Short; Rev. H. T. Tipps, Clarksville District. Standing: Rev. W. C. Westenberger, Nashville District; Rev. W. M. Lantrip, Columbia District; Rev. J. Dallas Bass, Murfreesboro District; Rev. S. D. Organ, Cookeville District.



Rev. J. T. Blackwood
(Made February 3, 1955)

Special recognition is given in this history to Rev. J. T. Blackwood, who was born in Wayne County, Tennessee, November 19, 1857. His parents were Isaiah Blackwood and Louisa Blackwood. His father was born in Scotland. Early in infancy he was baptized by Rev. David H. Merriman, a member of the Tennessee Conference who was admitted on trial in 1845.

Brother Blackwood was an active member of the Tennessee Conference for fifty years. He served circuits, half stations, stations, and four districts.

He was a delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Atlanta, 1919; to the General Conference in Hot Springs, 1922; and to the called session of the General Conference in Chattanooga, 1924. He was a member of the General Sunday School Board for four years.

Brother and Mrs. Blackwood reside in their own comfortable home in Monteagle, Tennessee. Since his retirement in 1930, he delivers his anniversary sermon in the local Morton Memorial Methodist Church to the delight of great congregations.

Preface

The idea for this history was conceived in conversation with Dr. J. W. Weldon of the Louisville Conference at the meeting of the Southeastern Jurisdictional Historical Society at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, in June, 1954. The general plan for *THE HISTORY OF METHODIST CHURCHES AND INSTITUTIONS IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE* was approved by the Tennessee Conference Historical Society, the Bishop, the District Superintendents, and the Tennessee Annual Conference in session at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, September 1-5, 1954. Work was begun on the history immediately following the adjournment of the 1954 session of the Annual Conference.

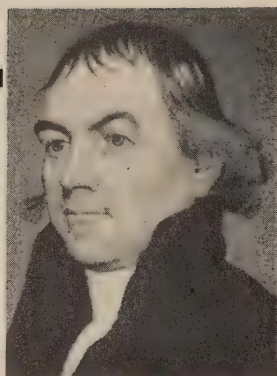
From the beginning the project was understood to be a cooperative enterprise between the Bishop, District Superintendents, pastors, local churches, institutions and the Conference Council. So far as we have been able to learn, the Tennessee Conference is the only Annual Conference in American Methodism that has promoted a project similar to this one. It is an inspiration to read the grass-roots histories of so many Methodist churches in Middle Tennessee from 1787 to the present time. An effort has been made to account for every local Methodist church that ever existed in this area. Local church histories recorded in this book clearly reveal that our churches were never better organized, better housed, better equipped, better financed, or had a better trained ministry or a larger membership than at the present time. "The future is as bright as the promises of God."

We are under obligation to the leadership of the Tennessee Conference and the hundreds of local churches for their cooperation and inspiration. However, we especially desire to recognize also the following for their valuable assistance in personal counsel, conferences, and office help: Rev. William H. Moss, pastor of Woodbine Methodist Church, Nashville, for his service as treasurer of the enterprise; Rev. Watson M. Cook, Santa Fe, retired, for several personal conferences on every phase of the history; Rev. William T. Steele, Superintendent of Nashville City Missions; Rev. Classie B. Cook, Executive Secretary of the Conference Council; and Mrs. Katie Gantzer Edwards, who has served as Secretary for thirty-three years with the Conference Board of Education.

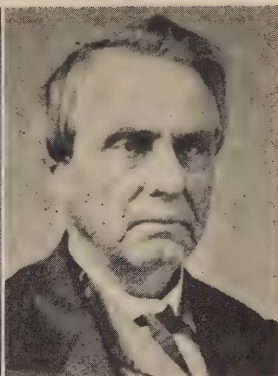
We send this history forth in the name of Christ for the promotion of His Kingdom through Tennessee Methodism.

CULLEN T. CARTER, *Editor*

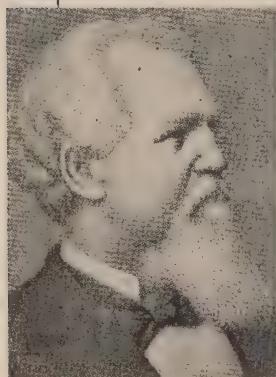
Pulaski, Tennessee, R.F.D. 5, January 19, 1956.



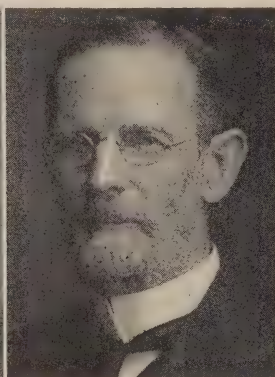
William McKendree
BALTIMORE, 1808



Robert Paine
PETERSBURG, 1846



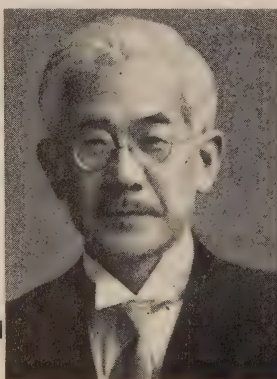
R. K. Hargrove
NASHVILLE, 1882



W. R. Lambuth
ASHEVILLE, 1910



Paul B. Kern
DALLAS, 1930



Motozo Akazawa
TOKYO, JAPAN, 1930



Costen J. Harrell
ATLANTA, 1944

Members of the Tennessee Conference, including the Western, who were elected to the episcopacy.

Introduction

The Tennessee Conference is unique among the one hundred conferences of American Methodism in that it has long been known far and wide not only by its regular title but also by an appellation given it in affection—namely, “the old Jerusalem Conference.” This was especially true in the days of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Since Methodist union it is not so often thus commonly referred to, but there are yet those who, remembering the yesterdays, still use the term “the old Jerusalem Conference” when they think of the Methodism of Middle Tennessee.

Certainly no conference in American Methodism has a richer heritage than the Tennessee Conference. The coming of Methodism to this section was contemporaneous with its settlement. The circuit rider came as the settler came.

One can easily detect from reading Asbury’s Journal that he greatly loved this country and coveted it for his Lord. He always referred to it as “on Cumberland,” and it represented for him the far reaches of his travels and the front line of the church in the wilderness.

Here for many years was McKendree’s center of operations, and when death found him at last he was laid to rest in the soil of Tennessee.

Here across the years has been the home of other episcopal leaders—Soule, Paine, McTyeire, Hargrove, Hoss, Tigert, Denny, Lambuth, DuBose and Kern.

Here was the capital of Methodism in the South for almost a hundred years. Here were the great boards of the Southern Church, its Publishing House, its first great school of the prophets, Vanderbilt University; and Scarritt College, benefactress to all the mission fields of the earth.

From here Methodism in an earlier day spread to Mississippi, Alabama, Missouri, and on west, and these Methodisms look to Tennessee as their spiritual mother.

Here have walked great spiritual giants like Dr. Thomas O. Summers, Dr. John B. McFerrin, Dr. A. L. P. Green, Dr. D. C. Kelley, Dr. Wilbur Fisk Tillett, and others whose line is gone out to the ends of the earth.

With such significant connections it is no wonder that for so long the Tennessee Conference was called “the old Jerusalem Conference.”

This book, the love-labor of the Reverend Cullen T. Carter, with its unique presentation of the history of the individual churches of

the Tennessee Conference, will make vivid for those who read its pages the glory of our Methodist heritage in Middle Tennessee.

But Methodism in Middle Tennessee not only has a great past. It has likewise a great and challenging present. We have today hundreds of churches and thousands of members here in this glorious middle country. These churches are writing a present record in which we may all justly take pride. Our conference institutions are making significant contributions in their particular fields. The Publishing House, Scarritt College, and three of the great boards of united Methodism are located in our midst, and Nashville is one of the three great capitals of the church.

Likewise Methodism in Middle Tennessee has the promise of a great future—a future as great as we ourselves by our commitment and Kingdom devotion choose for it to be.

The reading of the pages of this thrilling volume will remind all of us afresh of the glory of our spiritual heritage in the Tennessee Conference. It should likewise challenge us to such high devotion to Christ and His Kingdom that some day the children of another generation in Middle Tennessee shall rise up and call us blessed.

ROY H. SHORT, *Bishop*
Nashville Area, 1952-1956

Nashville, Tennessee,
December 27, 1955.

CHURCH HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS
Arranged Chronologically

McKENDREE

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

McKendree Methodist Church, 523 Church Street, Nashville, Tennessee, the mother church of Middle Tennessee Methodism, enjoys a rich heritage. Her doors have been open to all classes of people since the church was founded in 1787 by Rev. Benjamin Ogden of Kentucky, who was a Revolutionary War soldier. The first building was located on the Public Square. The early worshipers in this building were subjected to occasional raids by Indians who still occupied this part of the territory. The congregation was known as "Cumberland" from 1787 to 1801. At the Western Conference of 1802 the appointment was changed to "Nashville." The name "Methodist Church" was given the congregation in 1814 when the Presbyterians erected the second church building in the city. The church was officially named "McKendree Methodist Church" in 1832 when it became a station appointment in honor of Bishop William McKendree. He delivered his last sermon in this church November 23, 1834.

The church was given official status in 1796 when the first session of the State Legislature, meeting in Knoxville, authorized the issuance of a deed to the board of trustees. The first building was razed in 1807 to make room for the growing village, and for a period of some five years the services were conducted in the assembly room of the county jail. In the meantime a new building was erected on the site of the present Hume Fogg High School. However, after a few short years the officials decided that a mistake had been made by moving too far away from the center of the city and the next building was erected on the site of the Noel Garage on Church Street. The expanding church soon outgrew this building and the lot on which the present church stands was purchased, March 9, 1832, at a cost of \$3,180. Four different buildings have been erected on the present site; the present one serving since 1910.

McKendree has always taken an active part in the life of the community. Members of this church assisted Mrs. Felix Grundy, a member of the Presbyterian Church, who was chiefly responsible for the organization of the first Sunday school in the city. McKendree was the first church in Nashville to open its doors for the Sunday school. Scores of missionaries have gone out from the church to many

*McKendree*

fields of service and it has assisted in organizing new churches. The organization of the Woman's Missionary Society of the former Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which had its beginning at Bethlehem near Lebanon, Tennessee, in 1859, was completed in this church in 1872 by Mrs. Lavinia Kelley. (The Civil War disturbed the operation of the society.) Five Bishops have been selected from its long list of pastors.

The church building was seized in 1863 by the Federal forces and used as a hospital for the duration of the Civil War. The pastor was imprisoned in the State Penitentiary where he was held until President Andrew Johnson ordered his release and the church building returned to its original owners.

McKendree has had a glorious past but has never been more active than at the present time. The membership has passed the 2,000-mark; the Sunday school is moving forward under a well-trained leadership; a chartered Methodist Men's Club is supporting the total program

of the church. The well-trained and devoted staff of the church, together with the entire membership, are anticipating McKendree will continue to serve Methodism and the community for many years.

H. THORNTON FOWLER, *Pastor*

WALKER'S CHAPEL

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

According to reliable information, Walker's Methodist Church is one of the oldest churches in Middle Tennessee, having been organized in 1787.

The present house of worship was dedicated in 1933, and is the fifth building to be occupied in succession by the church. The first building stood about two hundred yards from the present site, and stones from its foundation remained on the spot until a few years ago. The second was a log structure, and some of the logs from it were known to be still in existence at a neighboring farm until recently. The third church was a building which was moved from Lumbsy Creek and erected on the present site. This building was torn down in 1891 and reconstructed on the hill back of the church and used as a schoolhouse until 1908. The fourth church was built in 1892 and was in use forty years until destroyed by fire in 1932.

There is a record of the pastors of Walker's Church since 1841, the first being the Reverend Joseph Willis, who preached there from 1841 to 1843. Since 1841 the church has been served by forty-eight different pastors.

It is not known exactly when the first Sunday school was organized at Walker's, but it was many years ago, the first superintendent of record being Mr. Sam Utley, who began serving in 1887. The Walker's Epworth League, now the Methodist Youth Fellowship, was organized in 1927 and has functioned continuously since. A woman's society devoted to local work was organized in 1935. In 1941 it was reorganized as the Walker's Woman's Society of Christian Service.

Many of the present members of Walker's Church are descendants of those pioneer Christians who founded the church and whose faith kept it alive through the early years of struggle and hardship. Rev. Roy West is our pastor. MRS. CARRIE HARDCASTLE, *Historian*

CEDAR HILL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The history of the Cedar Hill Methodist Church has its setting in events dating back as early as 1792. In that year a local preacher, the

Rev. Jimmy Gunn, settled on a farm about two and one-half miles north of the present site of Cedar Hill. In 1793 he erected a log church on his farm. It had no conference affiliation and no salary for a preacher and was open to all traveling preachers who passed that way. The Rev. Samuel Spear, the Methodist circuit rider serving the area between Madison, Tennessee, and Paducah, Kentucky, made regular stops there in those early years.

In 1829 another log church was built about a quarter of a mile southeast of Cedar Hill on what is now Highway 41. This church included the congregation of the other church and was named Ebenezer. Bishop Soule received it into the Conference in 1831 and added it to Red River Circuit. The Rev. James Spear, son of the Rev. Samuel Spear mentioned above, was its first pastor.

When the railroad was built through Cedar Hill, some of the congregation desired that the church be moved nearer to the growing village. So in 1859 the church was moved to its present site on approximately four acres of land given by Jefferson W. Gooch. It was then that the name was changed from Ebenezer to Cedar Hill Methodist Church. A one-room building was erected in the style of its time with two front entrances, a center aisle, and two Amen corners. The building and land were deeded by Jefferson Gooch on September 8, 1860, to nine trustees and their successors. The nine trustees were J. W. Gunn (builder of that first log church in 1793), Jeremiah Batts, Berry Darden, John Byrnes, J. A. Long, Miles A. Jackson, James G. Byrnes, Josiah Farmer, and John R. Long. The deed is recorded in Deed Book no. 11, page 563, in the Register's office for Robertson County.

That building was succeeded by the present sanctuary and three classrooms erected in 1889 during the pastorate of Rev. John M. Jordon. The building committee included W. R. Featherston, B. C. Batts, J. W. M. Gooch, Harry England, and C. B. Darden. To this building was added, in 1947 during the pastorate of Rev. John W. Durrett, a thirteen-room educational unit which amply provides for the church's work. It is believed to have become a station church in 1917.

The site of the present church was well known as the old Camp Meeting Ground. People gathered from miles around, the men coming in advance of their families to dig wells and build temporary shelter for the comfort of the people. There are known to have been seven wells at one time and the *Nashville Advocate* in 1872 estimated that though the shelter would accommodate 1,500 people, hundreds were forced to stand during the services.

The church has always been known as a strong church and an evangelistic church. The present church feels justifiable pride in such a rich heritage and approaches the future with humble confidence.

CHARLES H. POOLE, *Pastor*

CONNELL MEMORIAL

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

Methodism in the Goodlettsville area had its beginning at Mansker's Fort or Station, located on Mansker's Creek about a mile north of the present town of Goodlettsville. We find this was one of the preaching places in 1797 on the itineracy of Benjamin Ogden, the first preacher of record in this section of Tennessee.

Following the revival of 1799 there was such an upsurge of interest that in 1800 a meetinghouse was erected on six acres of land given by Isaac Walton, a wealthy citizen. Walton and his neighbors built a rough log building 22 by 40 feet. This was called Walton's Camp Ground and was used till 1804 when another building 26 by 30 feet was erected on the same tract.

This building was used as a place of worship until 1830. During the pastorate of John Sherrill, E. P. Connell and his wife, Nancy, who was the daughter of Isaac Walton, gave about two acres of land, and the church was moved to its present location in Goodlettsville.

A small white frame church was built and was called the Methodist Church. This building was used till about 1904. At that time, during the pastorate of W. L. Jackson, the present red brick building was erected and the name was changed to Connell Memorial Methodist Church.

During the last fifty years the church has had a steady growth. Several additions have been made to the building. In 1936, during the ministry of O. E. Hall, a basement annex was added. In 1941 while C. C. Hinkle was the pastor, two floors of Sunday-school rooms were added above this annex.

A further need for more room was felt in 1951 and a large recreation hall, kitchen, parlor and rest rooms were constructed as a basement. R. M. Johnson was minister at that time.

In 1953 a further expansion program was launched, consisting of educational rooms and a chapel over the recreation hall, a central heating system and the enlarging and remodeling of the sanctuary, at a cost of about \$60,000.00. This project is completed at this date.

The church will now seat 350 persons and has approximately

12,000 square feet of floor space in its education buildings. The entire plant is well equipped.

The church has a modern brick parsonage and a superannuate home that is occupied by Reverend N. Burch Tucker, a former pastor.

The church has a membership of 550 and a church-school enrollment of 475.

Reverend W. D. Comperry has served as pastor since June, 1952.

Methodism has its roots planted deeply in Goodlettsville. The work of Isaac Walton, E. P. Connell and the countless multitude down through the years who have given their services to God at this place of worship will continue to live in the faithful and devoted hearts of those who today worship and serve in this historic church.

W. D. COMBERRY, *Pastor*

McKENDREE

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

McKendree Methodist Church on the Palmyra Charge, Clarksville District, is one of the oldest churches in the Tennessee Conference. The site on which the church building now stands was used as a meeting place for Methodists when Tennessee was a part of North Carolina. Written records of the church date back to 1797. From 1797 until 1812 it was known as McKendree Camp Ground. The first building was erected in 1812 and was in continuous use for one hundred years, the congregation being served by circuit riders who were so busy they usually got to McKendree on a weekday. The present building was erected in 1912 and is located in Stewart County, three miles off State Highway No. 149, five miles from Cumberland City.

ROBERT H. PARKER, *Pastor*

P.S.: The early record as stated above was taken from the church Bible.—R. H. P.

MOUNT ZION

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Mount Zion Church is located a few miles south of Springfield, Tennessee, on Zion Road. This oldest Methodist church in Robertson County was organized in 1798 by Jesse Walker in the home of Samuel Crockett when American Methodism was only thirty-two year old. The first group met for a while in private homes and then,

in 1804, a rough log meetinghouse was erected. This was replaced by a larger and better building of hewn logs in 1844. Then, in 1882, after a storm damaged the second building, the present frame structure was built on the exact site of its predecessors.

Included in the property is an old cemetery which has been the church burial place for 150 years. Five of its pastors are interred there, including T. R. Clendenin, Jim Crawford, George Garrett, and Thomas Martin. Among early pastors here were Peter Cartwright, Thomas A. Morris, Lewis Kimble, John Sherrill, Levi Fisher, and Obadiah Ragland.

Charter member names in 1798, some of which are found on present rolls, are: Crockett, Martin, Culberson, Barnes, Farmer, Childress, Ventress, Bryand, Cobbs, Frey, Carter, and Houghman.

JAMES F. SWINEY, JR., *Pastor*

SAUNDERSVILLE

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

Since the year 1800 four different buildings have played a part in Methodism in the community which is at present Saundersville. Drake's Meeting House was located about two miles from the community, and this was where Bishop Asbury conducted a service on October 20, 1800, after being in Nashville the previous day. A wooden building called "Turner's Spring" preceded one of brick which was named "Saunders' Chapel," after Rev. Hubbard Saunders. Rev. Saunders had been an itinerant minister near Aspenville, Virginia, when he located in Sumner County in 1798, to carry out a long and fruitful local ministry until the year of his death, 1828. Thousands were converted in camp meetings on his land and the brick chapel, dedicated in 1830, bearing his name.

The name "Saunders' Chapel" was given at the insistence of a young man who had recently joined that church by letter and whose name has been lost. The story, however, remains of how in spite of the efforts of a local preacher, by the name of Parson Lindsay, he would not have his church named a spring (Turner's Spring) and that the name Saunders has been perpetuated to the present day.

When the village of Saundersville sprang up on the main thoroughfare, it seemed best to build a new chapel at a more convenient location. It was built and dedicated in 1867, as Saundersville Church which is the present chapel on Highway 31E, near Gallatin.

RUSSELL E. LINDSAY, *Pastor*

ADAMS

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The Adams Methodist Church was organized about the year 1800 as Polk's Chapel, and was located on the Polk farm (now owned by John Goodman). The Polk family had come from Maury County several years previous, and realizing the need for a Methodist church near by, donated land and had a long church erected by their slaves. This served people for miles around for seventy years. Unfortunately, nothing is known of the existence of any records.

In 1858 the railroad from Guthrie, Kentucky, to Edgefield was completed, and a station established three miles north of Polk's Chapel on land owned by Reuben Adams, pioneer settler. The Polk's Chapel congregation began thinking of moving to the little town which was soon thriving there, but the war delayed this. Finally in 1870 dedication services were held in the new white frame church built by popular subscription on land donated by the Adams family. John H. Reynolds was the first pastor. T. J. Blackwood, oldest minister in the Tennessee Conference, was pastor here in 1896.

In 1929 the building was improved by the construction of a large Sunday-school addition, which was further enlarged in 1951, at which time the sanctuary was completely renovated and redecorated. At present plans are under way for construction of a new parsonage.

Four men have gone into the ministry from this church: The Revs. Carl S. Smith (descendant of the Polks), of Adams; Henry Atkins, of Kingsport; Wendell Meggs, of Ashland City; and Ben Alford, student at Martin College.

Our church has an enrollment of about 350, with over 200 in the Sunday school. It promotes a full program of church activities and has an active official board. Since 1906 our pastors have been as follows: J. S. Rice, O. P. Hill, J. M. Oakley, B. T. Smothermon, J. R. Simpson, J. L. Taylor, W. L. Armstrong, W. T. S. Cook, Haskell Henry, J. T. Brown, J. G. Harper, J. O. Crawford, W. C. Westerberger, E. H. Lovell, F. L. Hawkins, G. M. Davenport, G. W. Baxter, C. S. Kunzelman, J. W. Kelly, our present pastor since 1952.

Following are members of the official board for Adams Methodist Church for 1955-1956: H. N. Brown, chairman; Rev. Carl Smith, secretary; Henry Smith, treasurer; John Strange, charge treasurer; Ben Baggett, Thomas Mason, Mrs. Thomas Mason, Victor Baggett, Albert McGhee, Newton Brooks, O. D. Moore, William I. Buckner, James Farmer, Emerson Meggs, James Jones, Forrest Poole, R. D. Murphey, Fred Derrington, Russell Corbin, Mrs. L. L. Meggs, Emmitt Davidson, B. C. Alford, Frank Pharris.

MRS. NEWTON BROOKS, *Historian*

TRIUNE

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The history of Triune Methodist Church runs like a golden thread back to 1800, and probably to 1795. At the crossing of the Nashville-Huntsville road, running north and south, and the Murfreesboro-Franklin road, running east and west, a community began to develop in the last decade of 1700. It was known as Hardiman Cross Roads. Within a few years, with the increase of population and business, Hardiman Cross Roads took on a more high sounding name and became Flemingburg in honor of Mr. Fleming who was a prominent citizen of the community. As early as 1802, business flourished in this community and Flemingburg became widely known in the West. It was in perfect harmony with Methodist tradition to have a congregation in the growing center of Flemingburg. When the famous "Porter Female Academy" was built, in the late 1700's or early 1800's, permission was given the Academy to use the spring "On the Meeting House Lot."

The Western Conference in session at Ebenezer, Tennessee, September 15, 1806, voted to hold the 1807 session at "Flemingburgh." Before the session was over the Conference reconsidered the question of the 1807 place of meeting and voted to hold the session at Chillicothe, Ohio, on the fifteenth of September, 1807. This historical action placed the Methodist church in Flemingburg among the larger churches in the Western Conference.

In the course of time the Flemingburg Methodist Church became decadent and was succeeded by "King's Camp Ground," about three miles west of present-day Triune, on the plantation of Colonel William King on the Franklin Road. The camp ground merged into "King's Chapel," a substantial brick building on King's plantation, erected in 1815. It is used today as a barn.

In 1849, King's Chapel was moved to a new location about a mile north of Flemingburg. A substantial brick building was erected upon the lot. Rev. A. P. McFerrin named the new church "Triune." In a few years the village of Flemingburg adopted the church name and since that long ago the town has been called Triune. Triune Methodist Church flourished from 1849 to 1863 when it was destroyed by fire, with Porter's Female Academy and other buildings and residences in the community, by General Steedman's Division of the Union Army.

July 2, 1866, preliminary steps were taken to rebuild the church during the pastorate of Rev. Larry C. Bryan. However, it was not finished and dedicated until 1874. It was erected on the old founda-

tion, "which the Yankees obligingly left." It cost \$7,000. The building is in use today.

Triune Methodist Church renews its strength with advancing age. The 175 members are aggressive, and promoting a modern church program. The atmosphere is saturated with the Methodist spirit and genius. It has a truly great tradition and its future was never brighter.

Rev. Melton Winham is the pastor.

EDITOR

WESLEY'S CHAPEL

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Wesley's Chapel Methodist Church is located two miles south of Viola, Tennessee. It was organized about 1800 and is the mother church of the Hickory Creek Circuit. Our records show that the early leaders of the church were the Garrettsons, Hoovers, Mabrys and Smiths. In 1848, it was moved to the present location where it has served the community for a hundred and seven years. Its church membership was never large and is now less than forty and the Sunday school enrollment is over fifty.

ROBERT THORNTON, JR., *Pastor*

FRANKLIN

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The precise date of the organization of the Methodist church at Franklin is not now available. The original record of a church meeting held on October 7, 1866, recites that "all records of Church Conferences, together with the roll of membership, was destroyed during the war." But public records and unquestioned written history afford convincing evidence that the "Methodist Society" at Franklin was organized, and a church building erected, near the year of 1800—possibly one or two years thereafter.

On October 26, 1799, the General Assembly of Tennessee established the town of Franklin "according to the original plan of said town" as "laid off" by Abram Maury "on his own land on Harpeth River." When he "laid off" the town (in 1798), Abram Maury set apart a "lot" for a "Methodist Meeting House" on the eastern side of East Margin Street (now First Avenue) and directly opposite the eastern end of Church Street, and soon thereafter the Methodists erected a church building thereon, in which Bishop Asbury preached on November 4, 1812, and, in his journal, described it as a "neat little brick house."

In 1830, the Franklin Methodists moved to a new church building which they had erected on a lot situated at the northeast corner of Church Street and Cameron Street (now Second Avenue), which lot they had bought on September 18, 1827.

In the summer of 1832, Dr. A. L. P. Green, then pastor of Franklin Station, entered in his journal a statement relative to a camp meeting at Franklin which we here quote: "We at length agitated the propriety of getting up a camp-meeting for the Station, and the idea seemed to take finely. Ten or eleven fine tents were soon built. The last week in August we held our camp-meeting; forty-five souls were happily converted, and as many added to the church. Since that time a continuous religious excitement has been kept up, and I hope that many are now serious who will eventually be brought to God."

The Tennessee Conference did not meet in 1863, or 1864, and the Methodist churches within its bounds had no pastors assigned to them during those two conference years, but Reverend H. B. North, a member of the Tennessee Conference and whose home was in Williamson County, "filled the pulpit" of the Franklin Church in the interim. At the annual Conference which met October 4, 1865, Reverend E. McKendree Bounds was appointed pastor of Franklin Station, which church had a membership of 133 on October 7, 1866, and 238 on October 6, 1867.

The present church building of the Franklin Station is located on a triangular lot fronting on the west side of Fifth Avenue (formerly West Margin Street) and bounded on the south by Church Street and on the northwest by Cummins Street, which lot was acquired by nine trustees for the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at Franklin, by a decree of the Chancery Court of Williamson County at its April term, 1869, and the main auditorium was erected thereon, and has been occupied since the first of the year, 1871. It was enlarged in 1916 by the addition, on its northern side, of a building containing fifteen rooms intended mainly for the use of the church school.

In the year 1949 a basement room, with a seating capacity of approximately two hundred, which was intended for use as a church-school classroom and for social activities of the church membership, was constructed under the main auditorium at a cost exceeding \$8,500.00.

On July 18, 1953, Franklin Station bought the house and lot formerly known as the Beaumont North home place, situated on the east side of Fifth Avenue, South, and directly opposite the main auditorium of the church, at a cost of \$14,500.00 and some additional cost of remodeling as a place of residence of the pastor.

On the twenty-fifth day of April, 1954, the former parsonage on Fifth Avenue, South, was dedicated to the use of the church school

under the name of Fellowship Hall. The dedication services were conducted by Reverend W. M. Lantrip, Superintendent of Columbia District; Reverend J. E. Wolfe, minister in charge of Franklin Station; James R. Lanier, Sr., church-school superintendent; Professor Don Emerson, chairman of the Board of Education; and Earl Beasley, Sr., chairman of the Official Board.

On December 1, 1954, Franklin Station had 1,001 members, and on that date the enrollment of the church school was 550; the Woman's Society of Christian Service had 199 members, including eighty-seven members of the Wesleyan Service Guild.

OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS FOR 1954-1955

Active Stewards and Trustees—J. B. Akin, R. W. Ashford, J. Wilson Ashworth, Earl Beasley, J. H. Beasley, H. Y. Beeler, Tommy Butts, Horace Edgmon, William Ewin, Joe Eggleston, W. W. Faw, J. W. Greer, O. C. Hatcher, Lawrence Hussey, Robert Inman, J. H. James, C. R. Knight, Tommy Lance, J. R. Lanier, J. R. Lanier, Jr., H. M. Leckie, Gilbert Marshall, William Miller, T. J. Moran, Steve Murrey, John Murrey, Thomas McCall, Paul McCord, J. Polk Nelson, Joe Nicholson, Ralph Naylor, J. B. Parks, Jerre Pollard, Albert Ragsdale, Robert Sewell, Jack Simpkins, Frank Smithson, A. B. Thomas, Daly Thompson, Joe Trice, Malcolm Wakefield, Ed Warren, Freenin West, Robert White, W. H. Wyatt, W. C. Yates.

Honorary Steward—W. A. Austin.

Communion Steward—Mrs. Kerman Pointer.

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD

Margaret Ewin—President of the Methodist Youth Fellowship

Don Emerson—Chairman of the Commission on Education

Mrs. George Hamer—President of the Wesleyan Service Guild

Mrs. Joe Holshouser, Jr.—Chairman of the Commission on Missions

Mrs. J. Polk Nelson—President of Woman's Society of Christian Service

Local Preachers—Wray Tomlin, William Tomlin, Marc West.

WALTER W. FAW, *Historian*

Court of Civil Appeals (Retired)

LEBANON

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

The Lebanon Methodist Church was organized in Lebanon in 1803. From 1803 to 1813 it was included in the Nashville Circuit.

In 1813 the Lebanon Circuit was formed. In 1830 Lebanon was united with Murfreesboro. The two churches remained together until 1834 when Lebanon was made a station.

The original church was built in 1812 on Market Street two blocks from the Public Square. It was the first church built in Lebanon and the first brick building. This building was purchased for the colored people in 1866 for \$1,500.00, and is now the Pickett Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church. The walls are still strong and the interior retains the style in keeping with pioneer days. The seats, pulpit stand, altar railing, and special section used by the slaves are still preserved. The second church was built on East Main Street one block from the Public Square in 1866 and was used until 1914 when the present building was erected on the same location. In 1955 a \$100,000.00 addition to the church-school plant was completed.

The church now has a membership of 868 with 550 in the church school.

Among the pastors serving the church in its earlier years were F. E. Pitts, John F. Hughes, J. B. Walker, E. E. Slater, John Kelly, F. P. Scruggs, J. R. Plummer, William Burr, A. S. Riggs, R. A. Young, A. Mizell, W. C. Johnson, R. C. Hatton, S. P. Whited, S. B. Baldwin, A. W. Smith, R. P. Ransom, and F. C. Wilkes

Official Board, 1955—H. L. Armstrong, Charles H. Baird, Rayburn Bellar, Herschel Bradshaw, Mrs. Roy Crips, Comer Donnell, Byron Dinges, C. O. Dodson, Roy Dowdy, Walter Ferrell, Clayton Foster, John Freeman, Mrs. R. P. Gibbs, Elma Gill, George Harding, Clark Harrison, S. J. Hathcock, Sr., James Jewell, Mrs. Dick Lawlor, Benton Lasater, W. H. Maddox, Mrs. W. G. Mingus, Lindsley McDonald, Henry Parker, A. L. Partee, Mrs. Annie Partee, T. H. Phelan, J. R. Smith, W. H. Smith, K. I. Todd, Reid Thomas, Frank Thompson, Burton Wilson, L. H. Walker, Grissim Walker, Dean Wilkinson, J. O. Williams.

Honorary Members—Mrs. J. R. Thomas, Mrs. C. R. Williamson, Howard Edgerton.

Trustees—Comer Donnell, Eldridge Patton, T. H. Phelan, Albert Stone, Burton Wilson, L. H. Walker, J. Bill Frame, W. J. Prichard.

C. E. HAWKINS, *Pastor*

THOMPSON'S CHAPEL

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Thompson's Chapel Methodist Church was organized early in 1800 by William Thompson. The first church building was located

on Thompson Road, which is known today as Paragon Mill Road, in Davidson County. In 1853 the building was moved to its present location, six and one-half miles south of Nashville on the Nolensville Road. At this time the following composed the Board of Trustees: William Ewing, D. F. Thompson, Thomas B. Johnson, Jacob Rader, William Williford, and Daniel Anderson. The pastor was Rev. William Shaw. The present parsonage was built in 1922.

The present church building was erected in 1893 and dedicated in 1894. The church has had several pastoral charge connections. It was first associated with Woodbine. Later Thompson's Chapel and Old Smyrna formed a charge. The charge was composed of Thompson's Chapel, Antioch and Hamilton until 1950. That year Hamilton was made a station appointment which left Thompson's Chapel and Antioch as a half station.

The following compose the Official Board: Jess Pearre, J. E. Hickerson, Joe C. Smithson, John W. Wheeler, W. B. Veevers, A. M. Ragsdale, W. T. Goodloe, J. B. McCurdy, H. F. Wallace, Mrs. W. B. Veevers, Mrs. J. W. White, Mrs. John Wheeler, Joe C. Smithson is superintendent of the Sunday school. Rev. James D. Luther is pastor.

The W.S.C.S. has a membership from twelve to fifteen, and the Sunday-school membership is around ninety to one hundred.

JOHN W. WHEELER,
J. B. MCCURDY,
MARY E. RAGSDALE,
Historical Committee

LIBERTY

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The members of the Liberty Methodist Church, near Nolensville, are justly proud of the link which binds them to the early days of Methodism in this section of the state.

On October 1, 1808, the ninth session of the Western Conference, which included churches in this section west of the Appalachian Mountains, was held at Liberty on a site one and one-half miles from the present church. Bishops Francis Asbury and William McKendree were present. But McKendree had been elected to the episcopacy in the preceding May and it was his first conference to attend as bishop. He deferred the presidency to his venerable senior, Bishop Asbury. During this conference Bishop McKendree presented the plan for "The Bishop's Cabinet," now a long recognized institution of itinerant Methodism.

Bishop Asbury was not favorable to the plan; however, McKendree was insistent and the innovation was made and became a general rule which still persists throughout the entire connection. For the first time, the presiding elders were called into cabinet session and consulted about the needs and possibilities of their fields before the preachers were assigned for the new year. During this conference it was reported that great spiritual revivals had resulted in more than two thousand new members in the far-flung conference. A call was made for eighty preachers to serve the vast field during the ensuing year. The conference lasted for seven days at Liberty Hill, and then the two bishops mounted their horses and were off to other areas of the Church.

In 1837 the Liberty Church was built on its present site. On August 18, 1837, John Hamer conveyed and deeded to Jeremiah W. Primm, Green H. Primm, Charles A. Primm, William Brown, Lawrence Foy, Harris Hamer, and John Hamer, trustees of Liberty Methodist Episcopal Church, and their successors one acre of land in the Sixteenth Civil District of Williamson County. The church was readily built and stands as one of the oldest organizations and structures in Williamson County.

The members of the early church had many vivid experiences in the "camp meetings," the War Between the States, and the Reconstruction Period following the war. The church has produced many venerable lay leaders who have served with deep dedication in the local church and in the Conference. The present membership, deeply aware of its long tradition and proud heritage, continue in the footsteps of their forefathers, leading the community and the greater church toward the high calling of Jesus Christ.

In recent years the church has been redecorated, making it one of the more beautiful and worshipful rural churches. Gas heat has been installed, adding to the comfort of the congregations as they worship. This is the spirit of improvement and progress which has been persistent in the membership of this tiny but sturdy church.

RALPH L. KOELEMAY, *Pastor*

BELL BUCKLE

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

"Salem Church and Camp-ground, located on Bell Buckle Creek, Bedford County, Tennessee, about ten miles from Shelbyville, are historic. The first cane was cut on this creek in 1805. Here at an early day was formed an important settlement. As early as 1807 or 1808, the neighborhood was included in the Duck River Circuit.

Tradition says that in 1807, the neighbors cut round poles, and erected a meeting house on Mr. Norvell's land, and called it Salem." (*Christian Advocate*, 1876.)

The Rev. John B. McFerrin said it was built of logs and poles covered with clapboards held in place by weight poles. The men and their families who worshiped in that log church were Townsend Fugitt, Robert Blair, Burrel Featherston, William Peacock, Martin Hancock, Major Sutton, Allen Wallis, the Pearsons, Norvells, Armstrongs, McGrews, Hensleys, Davises, Greens, Kelleys, Lynches, Scruggs, Marshes, Thomases and many others. It soon became evident that the congregation had outgrown their little log church. Under the leadership of the Rev. John Brooks and others what was known as Norvell's Camp Ground was established just south of Salem Cemetery. A hewn log church took the place of the original structure. It was here that the Annual Conference held its session in 1821.

The Salem congregation grew and in time the church was replaced by a frame structure. Material from this building was used in the construction of a house, still standing, known as the "Jacobs' Place." The new church was famous for its great revivals held by such men as Thomas Marks, Fountain E. Pitts, Joseph Myers, C. C. Mayhew, John R. Thompson, and others. The Rev. A. T. Crawford was the last pastor at Old Salem.

In the year 1875 the congregation moved to the town of Bell Buckle which had grown up around the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad depot one mile from Salem. A large brick church was constructed and continued as the place of worship of the Methodists until the year 1893.

In the meantime, Webb School was moved from Culleoka to Bell Buckle in 1886. "Old Sawney" Webb, headmaster of the school, was a Methodist and there developed a relationship between Webb School and the Methodist Church which continues to the present. Webb School teachers have provided leadership in the church and many Webb students have been a part of its life.

In 1893 the present church was built under the leadership of the Rev. T. L. Duncan. The membership of Bell Buckle Methodist Church still embraces descendants of families which founded the original church at Old Salem. The lives of many young men of Webb School, who later entered the ministry and other professions, have been influenced by its ministry. The congregation has given one member to the world mission of the church. R. M. Paty, M.D., was sent to China in 1923.

JAMES F. SWINEY, JR., *Pastor*

COLUMBIA (First Church)

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

At the Western Conference, Chillicothe, Ohio, September 14, 1807, Bishop Asbury appointed Zadock B. Thaxton to the Duck River Circuit in the Cumberland District. Columbia was a part of the Duck River Circuit until October 4, 1820, when Thomas Madden was appointed to Columbia as the first station preacher. On September 20, 1820, one half of lot 79, located on the west side of South Main Street, was purchased and a frame building was erected in 1821. The following are recorded as trustees: John Gordon, Robert Doke, Levi Covey, James Gullett, John T. Moore, Elisha Ussell and E. W. Dale.

In 1822 a Sunday school was organized. In 1824 the Tennessee Annual Conference met in Columbia for the first time, Bishops McKendree and Soule presiding and Hartwell H. Brown, pastor-host. A. L. P. Green, of later prominence and fame, was admitted on trial at this conference.

In 1836 a handsome brick building with a tall spire of grace and symmetrical proportions was erected on the lot where the present church now stands.

In 1849 ex-President James K. Polk, a native of Columbia, was received as a member by baptism and vow by Dr. John B. McFerrin. The Polk Memorial window is in memory of President Polk.

The following decade was a period of rapid growth. In 1858 there were 204 additions under the ministry of Rev. F. S. Petway.

The disrupting and demoralizing effects of the Civil War, 1860-1864, were felt. In 1865, John B. McFerrin came to Columbia as pastor. In 1869, South Columbia Mission was begun, became a separate charge in 1885, and is now Craft Memorial Church.

The church burned on April 20, 1874, and the present church was built in 1876 and dedicated in 1878.

Woman's Missionary Society and Epworth League were organized in 1893. The first unit of Sunday school building was added in 1904.

1914-1919, a period of advance: Sunday school building enlarged; full support of one missionary, Rev. S. H. Wainwright, and four native missionaries assumed; more than 400 additions; \$28,750 subscribed to Centenary; four women elected as stewards; parsonage on High Street purchased; 1921 Centennial Celebration—873 members.

The new educational building was completed in 1940. A \$14,000 legacy from George Craft and C. H. Witt was gratefully appreciated by naming of Witt-Craft Chapel.

In 1945 the official board approved the establishment of River-

side Methodist Church and in 1952 helped to establish St. Luke Church on the Santa Fe Pike. Support of full-time missionary continued—Rev. Eugene H. Lowell being presently supported, 1954. In 1949, Mrs. Charlie Davis willed her home on the Hampshire Pike to the church—remodeled for parsonage in 1950—old parsonage converted into Youth Center. Plans for remodeling and enlargement of the educational building under study in 1955.

First Methodist has entertained the Tennessee Annual Conference ten times, and has been host to the Annual Conference of the Woman's Society several times. Numerous conferences and district meetings are held at First Church. First Church has been one of the great churches of the Conference, having been served by the outstanding preachers of the Conference. The membership of First Methodist through the years has included some of the outstanding prominent citizens and leaders of Columbia.

Present membership, 1954, 968. FRANK A. CALHOUN, *Pastor*

GOSHEN

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

According to reliable tradition through the Ladd family, an old Goshen family line, the first religious services near the present Goshen site were conducted in 1808 under a bush arbor on the farm of Thomas Gidcomb. This was the year when the Duck River Circuit with Zadock B. Thackston as preacher appeared for the first time in the minutes of the Western Conference. The Ladd tradition further relates that Caleb Fly, a local Methodist preacher and great-grandfather of Arch Ladd, our informant, in the year 1808 entered 1,600 acres of land west of the Goshen site, now known as the Peter B. Ladd farm. Caleb Fly gave three acres of land for a church building and burying ground and for many years preached there under a bush arbor. Arch Ladd's great-grandfather, Henry Heedspeth, entered land north of the Goshen site. His grandfather, Henry Heedspeth, Jr., was born in 1813 and at an early age was made a Methodist steward. Since that time each generation of his descendants has furnished one or more stewards at Goshen without a break in the line to this day.

The Tennessee Conference came into being through the division of the Western Conference in 1812. At the first meeting of the new Conference in November John Crane was appointed to the Duck River Circuit. As given in his obituary, "He continued to travel and preach till the end or near the end of January or first of February, when he ceased from over-much fatigue and a severe cold, which

terminated in an inflammation of the lungs, and about the fourteenth of February death sounded the retreat. He died at the house of Mr. Mitchel on Duck River with much confidence in the Lord." According to our tradition this farm was what today is known as the Bill Cook farm, a little more than one mile south of Goshen. The body of John Crane was first to be laid to rest at Goshen. There today his grave is marked by a simple stone slab. From that date to the present the Goshen Cemetery, consecrated by the body of this sainted young pioneer Methodist preacher, has been a noted burying ground, where lie the ashes of many who in their day helped to make Goshen Church a great moral and spiritual center for miles around.

The first church house was built in 1835. It was built of logs and had a fireplace. In 1882 the log house was replaced with the present frame building. This building was repaired and improved within and without and lighted with electricity in the autumn of 1949. At that time about one-half acre of land across the road in front of the building was bought and the road was rerouted along the farther side.

Goshen Church through the years has been under God a power in the salvation of souls. Here great revivals with spiritual power have been held. The surrounding woods on many occasions rang with the shouts of many now sainted in the heavenly sphere. Some of the old family names, some still there in evidence, are Gardner, Ladd, Blackburn, Flemming, Elam, Roach, Shouse, Baker, Fly, and Gidcomb. Goshen Church and Santa Fe Church have been linked together on the same circuit through the years. It has sent forth into the ministry in recent years two young men from old Goshen family lines: Jacob Hogan Gardner and Charles Edward Blackburn. The official board for the year 1955-56 is as follows: Rev. Joseph G. Stump, charge pastor; E. G. Gardner, Eron Miller, Arch Ladd, Edison Warf, Hubert Baker, Mrs. E. G. Gardner, Mrs. Carl Gardner, Baxter Blackburn, James Allen Hood, and Carl Gardner, church school superintendent.

W. M. COOK, *Historian*

DOUGLASS CHAPEL

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

At the turn of the nineteenth century in the young settlement called Hamilton Station a group of the leading people felt the need for a church. Having brought Methodism from North Carolina, they were the families of Hamilton, Douglass, Green, Bell, Watkins, Rollins, and others. The church they organized was called Pleasant Hill.

About 1830 William Clark, who came from Maryland to Pleasant Hill community, married Emma Douglass. Through the efforts of the Clark family the church was moved in 1869 to its present location on Long Hollow Pike in Sumner County. To honor Bennett E. Douglass, who had bequeathed the land to Mrs. Emma Clark, the church was named Douglass Chapel.

RUSSELL E. LINDSAY, *Pastor*

SHADY GROVE

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The exact date of the organization of this church and the number of charter members are unknown. The first preaching services by the Methodists were in the John Gill home, about one and one-half miles south of the present village, on Dunlap Creek, by the Rev. George Nixon, who probably organized the church. This was in 1809 or shortly thereafter. The first Methodist church of the community was built on Dunlap Creek, about a mile above the village, and was destroyed by a hurricane in 1830.

During this period, the Methodists held services quite often at the old camp ground near the present Shady Grove Cemetery. After the hurricane, a new Methodist church was built, of logs, just below the present building. This was used for some forty years, until 1871, when the present building was erected on a lot given by two brothers—F. M. and J. N. Miller. It was dedicated by Bishop E. M. Marvin, when the District Conference met here in 1874. The building was remodeled and put in good condition in 1949.

The earliest record of membership dates only from 1831, the earlier ones having been lost. At one time, the membership was fifty or more, but for some years it has been losing numbers, until the present membership is only twenty-seven.

This church was for many years the center of the Shady Grove Circuit, but this circuit was dissolved in 1904; since then it has been a part of the Williamsport Circuit. E. G. GODWIN, *Pastor*

BELLEVIEW

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

On September 5, 1809, Newton Edney conveyed to Rev. Levin Edney, Aquilla Sugg, and William Roach, a lot upon which a church building was erected. It was located west of Harpeth River, near the Williamson County line, and was known as "Edney's Meet-

ing House." This building was destroyed by fire and a more elegant building was erected about one mile farther west in a community called Pasquo.

The Northwestern Railroad was built in 1855. It missed Pasquo about four miles. (In 1870 this railroad was sold to the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad Company.) Bellevue, on the railroad, twelve miles from Nashville, became the center of the community. Therefore, in 1909, the congregation voted to move Edney's Chapel from Pasquo to Bellevue. Early in 1910, the old church building at Pasquo was sold for \$100.00 which included the building lot. Rev. Cullen T. Carter was pastor of the Centenary Mission which included Bellevue as one of the appointments. Mr. Tom Herrin was chairman and Mr. John F. Thompson was treasurer of the building committee. Under this leadership, the new building in Bellevue was erected in the summer and early fall of 1910. It was dedicated free of debt September 25, 1910, by Rev. H. B. Reams, Presiding Elder of the Nashville District. A revival meeting was begun on the day of dedication with Mr. Bell Regen, a lay evangelist, doing the preaching. At the close of the revival the pastor received into the Methodist Church twenty-five or thirty on profession of faith.

In a few years the Bellevue Methodist Church was made a station. In 1953, Sunday school rooms were erected, modern kitchen installed, and the choir loft enlarged. It is an old church, having been organized in the Western Conference, but it has new ways and is promoting a full program of church activities.

VINSON SUTLIVE, *Pastor*

SMITH'S CHAPEL

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Smith's Chapel Methodist Church was organized in 1810. Rev. Joseph Smith who came from North Carolina organized the church in the home of Joseph Long where services were conducted for twenty-five years. Church services were changed to the home of Pollock Roads in 1835 where they were continued until 1839. Mr. Roads lived near the boundary line of Bedford and Moore counties. After worshiping in homes for nearly thirty years, the members and others determined to build a house of worship about 1840. Solomon Ray, Robert Hodge, and O. G. Stegall were the chief promoters in the erection of a church building one mile east on the Nashville and Winchester Stage Road where the Hurricane Baptist Church now stands. It was appropriately named "Smith's Chapel" in honor of the

organizing pastor. Soon, to their surprise, it was discovered the new church was erected on land that belonged to an expelled member of the Baptist church who refused to give a deed to the property. For a while both the Methodists and the Baptists conducted services in the building. It was not long until conflict arose over the time of appointments which created a very unpleasant situation.

Members of the Methodist church who preferred peace in the community, quietly withdrew from their church building and continued services in the home of O. G. Stegall for two years. They erected another building near Pearson's tanyard. This building was used undisturbed until 1874. This year the present building was erected with all materials and labor donated by members and friends of the church.

We cannot locate the list of charter members in 1810. We have records showing that Rev. Thomas Smith was Presiding Elder and Rev. Sterling Brewer was pastor in 1837. The following preachers went out from this congregation: A. Elkins and James Long, 1835; Simpson Gunn and J. T. Faris, 1889; W. E. Couser, 1901. The church has 50 members.

J. C. SANDUSKY, *Pastor*

REHOBOTH

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Isaac, the son of Abraham, dug two wells which caused strife among herdsmen. He dug a third well and Abimelech's herdsmen caused no trouble and he named it Rehoboth which means wide places. He said: "The Lord hath made room for us." Gen. 26:22.

Since Rehoboth has to do with water, it bears out the tradition that the first church was located at Cross Water, about one mile east of its present location on the Old Stage Road. Cross Water is a large spring where two streams cross. The church was traditionally known as Cross Water Methodist Church. It was located in the midst of several prominent Methodist families—the Newbills, Suttles, Tarpleys, Buchanans, Abernathys—and not far from the Paines.

Rehoboth first appeared in the Minutes of Conferences in 1811. The church was organized prior to this year, certainly not later than 1810. In 1811 it was an appointment on the Richland Circuit in the Nashville District. Rev. Boaz Ady was the pastor. The first church building no doubt was a log house which was used for twenty years.

In 1830, the church was moved to higher ground and more centrally located on its present site. In the Register's Office of Giles County, Deed Book H, page 263, the following statement appears in the deed to the building lot: "Registered the 16th day of March 1830. Isaac Mason to Trustees of Meeting House, Trustees being—

Lewis Brown, Alexander Tarpley, William R. Brown, Hartwell H. Brown, Henry McKay, William A. Tarpley, Lewis B. Morris, for the consideration of \$10.00, ten dollars cash for one acre of land, including all water and timber rights." The deed is a lengthy document and it specifies how the trustees shall be elected in case one or more should die or resign in order that there will at all times be some trustees with authority to transact business for the church in a legal way. The second building was erected on the new location soon after the deed was secured in 1830. It was occupied only about forty-five years. It was in the midst of a skirmish during the Civil War in 1864. It is traditionally reported that the building was destroyed by the Union soldiers at that time.

A "Class Book" is available which was used from 1848 to 1855, during the period of the second building. The following were members of this particular class: James M. Paine, Alexander Tarpley, William D. Marks, Winfield S. Mason, Henry Tarpley, Solomon Tarpley, Charles C. Abernathy, Silas L. Abernathy, Alfred H. Eason, Pascal Tarpley, John H. Newbill, Jesse Montgomery, Isaac Barber, John M. Marks, George A. Buchanan, John Hester, John L. Abernathy, Andrew J. Abernathy, John E. Buchanan, Thomas G. Paine. These were members in 1848. At a later date the following Negro members were listed: Adam's Matthew, Mason's Tom, Brown's Vina, Dickson's Olive, Dickson's Esther, Reed's Mary, Scale's Harriett, Tarpley's Mary, Harwell's Elizabeth. (Slaves had no surname.)

The present church building was erected in 1876. Eunice Scales, who was born in 1877, was the first baby baptized in the new building when she was about one year old. She was very active in this church all her life. In 1906 she became Mrs. Moulton Abernathy and was called home December 20, 1950. The building was completely remodeled in 1950. It was moved sixty feet northeast and placed over a concrete basement. It was given classrooms downstairs, furnace heat, Hammond organ, and redecorated at a cost of \$4,500. The following composed the building committee—Sterling Bass, Clyde Birdsong, Sidney Paysinger, John E. Mason, Fred Stovall. A large part of the work was donated. The following members who worked on the building have since died: James Birdsong, Roscoe Rodgers, and Sidney Paysinger. Rev. Marshall D. Moss was pastor during the building enterprise.

Following are members of the official board: Clyde Birdsong, Mrs. Walter Hopkins, Mrs. John Hopkins, Maburn Barber, Joe Williams, Sterling A. Bass, Edgar R. Bass, Mrs. Edgar R. Bass, Wade Brown, Mrs. John E. Mason, Archie Johnston, Fred Stovall, Joyce Birdsong, Rev. Cullen T. Carter, retired.

The Sunday school has always been regarded as one of the very

strong forces in the church. While the enrollment ranges around 140 the percentage of attendance is high. The following compose the teaching staff at the present time: Mrs. Ellen Barber, Archie Johnston, Mrs. Archie Johnston, Mrs. William Parsons, Mrs. Francis Paysinger, Charles R. Gilbert, and Rev. Cullen T. Carter. Fred Stovall is the general superintendent.

This historical sketch should include a brief statement relative to the famous Paine family who lived not far from the original location of Rehoboth. James M. Paine was a member of the church and assisted in building the second house in the early thirties. His son Robert, who became a bishop in the former Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was licensed to preach in the first building of Rehoboth at a Quarterly Conference in January 1818. Z. T. Dyer, a young man, worked for Mr. James Paine on the farm. Preaching was scheduled at the church. Mr. Paine asked the young man about going to church. Young Dyer replied by saying he would not go to church for there was work to do on the farm. Mr. Paine replied by saying, "Yes, you must go to church for a boy who will not attend church is not worth anything." He attended services that day and he has grandchildren in Rehoboth today.

Rev. Wray Tomlinson, a student in Martin College, is pastor.

EDGAR R. BASS, *Historian*

SANTA FE

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Before writing this brief history of the Santa Fe Methodist Church the writer needs to preface it with this foreword: Since Santa Fe is his home and the home of his wife, Iva Dell, and since both were brought up and nurtured in Methodist doctrine and discipline through their childhood and youth in this beloved church, its history is very personal and the writing of it may be too personal in many respects; but let the reader forget the writer, who has lived and known the church through half its history, and give thanks to God and glorify him for all that any of us have been privileged to do in and for the Church of God, the body of Christ our Lord.

Santa Fe had its beginning as Pin Hook at a date, from our best reckoning, around the year 1800. Pin Hook was situated on the high point a little south of east of the present site of Santa Fe. Before or after its shifting onto the lower level where Santa Fe now stands, the name was changed to Benton, after Thomas Benton, who lived for a time at or near Burwood, Williamson County, and later moved to Missouri, where he was elected to the United States Senate. This

settlement was first in Williamson County. Maury County, taken from Williamson, was formed in 1807.

The religious history of this early community was interwoven with that of the community. The Methodist circuit rider was alert and ready to enter into the life of every pioneer settlement. "In the new communities of Kentucky and Tennessee," writes one Methodist historian, "the Methodist itinerant rode every trail, reached every cabin, and lifted new standards in every community of that magically expanding frontier." (Page 218, *The History of Methodism*, Luccock.) The Duck River Circuit was formed in 1808, with Zadoc B. Thackston as preacher. How soon Benton became a preaching appointment on that circuit, we do not know; but it was on that circuit later if not from the beginning. According to one record, the first Methodist church (then called a society) was organized at Benton in 1811. This is approximately correct if not exact. If this date was taken from Conference or other church records, which usually were a year late, it would be safe to say that the first society was organized at Benton not later than 1810.

The Methodists and Presbyterians were usually united in the camp meetings which came into being in 1800, first in Kentucky and then in Tennessee. There is a trustworthy tradition, which we accept at face value, that there was a camp meeting ground on the rise just west of Benton, beyond the creek, where for some years stood the Cumberland Presbyterian church.

The first Methodist church building at Benton was built of logs early in the century, as evidenced by the fact that it was a very old house in poor condition when taken down to make room for the new house of worship that opened for service in 1886. There was no deed to the lot on which the old log house stood, as was often the case in those days for both church and school.

The first post office at Benton was called Snow Creek Post Office. It was established April 2, 1830. It could not be called Benton because there was already a post office with that name in Tennessee. The Masonic Lodge established here in 1845 is Benton Lodge No. 111. On November 5, 1849, four years later, the name of the office was changed to Santa Fe, which is Spanish, meaning "holy faith." The Methodist church was now the Santa Fe Church on the Duck River Circuit. In 1857, the Santa Fe Circuit was formed, with R. G. Linn as preacher. Goshen and Bethel were with Santa Fe on the circuit. There were doubtless others. For the lack of space we must omit the roll of preachers who have served the Santa Fe Circuit since 1857.

The year 1886 marked the beginning of a new era in the history of the Santa Fe Church. In 1882, doubtless anticipating the building of a new house of worship, a deed to the old lot, dated Sept. 16, 1882,

was given by Rev. J. Wesley Irwine, a local preacher and owner of the land on which stood the old log house. The first board of trustees as named in the deed were: John W. Hulme, John H. Cook, Thomas C. Gaskill, John W. Kinzer, and Watson P. Cook. The deed was witnessed by J. W. Cowley and Rev. R. W. Seay, the preacher in charge. Later Dr. J. W. Hulme and wife gave the church a strip of land from their lot to widen the lot for the new building. Building operations began under the pastorate of B. H. Johnson and were completed in 1886 under the pastorate of J. W. Hensley. A. B. H. Allen was then superintendent of the Sunday school, which position he held from 1883 until 1930, the year of his death.

The third era of advance in the history of the Santa Fe Church was inaugurated in 1947 when plans for an educational annex and for remodeling and refinishing of the old sanctuary were drawn and adopted by the church. It was the high privilege and good fortune under the providence of God for this writer, then pastor of the Pulaski Methodist Church, and his wife, Iva Dell, to be in a position to lend a helping hand to this beloved church in the work of inaugurating and making actual what the Methodists at Santa Fe had long needed and had for years anticipated doing. The whole program as drawn and laid before the membership assembled was enthusiastically adopted. To help carry through the building operations this writer was appointed to the Santa Fe Circuit at the Conference of 1947. Funds were raised, plans were further perfected, and operations were started in the summer of 1948 with the excavation for the annex. This unit was dedicated April 30, 1950, by Bishop Paul B. Kern. The refinishing of the sanctuary was completed in the spring of 1951. Memorial gifts made much of our building operations possible. They also made possible for the sanctuary the new acrosomic piano and the new Church Model Hammond Organ at the total cost of \$3,100. The organ was installed and both were ready for use on Easter Sunday, March 25, 1951. Much still remains to be done for the completion of the entire program as launched, but our motto is Forward.

The Santa Fe Church claims for its own four Methodist ministers, who in their youth were nurtured here in their love for God and his Church: J. R. Holmes, Watson Marvin Cook, retired; Classie Beal Cook, at present serving the Tennessee Conference as Executive Secretary of the Conference Council; Woodrow W. Johnson, pastor at Petersburg; and Dr. Robert C. Holmes, District Superintendent of the Tampa District, Florida Conference.

W. M. COOK, *Historian*

P.S.: Brother Marvin Cook was the inspiration, architect, promoter, and did much of the work with his own hands in rebuilding of this ancient church. It is most worshipful and serviceable.—Editor.

GOOSE POND

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

About one hundred years ago, a gentleman rode into the community of Goose Pond and inquired of a citizen, who was a German, where Mr. Adam Duncan could be found. After properly directing the gentleman to the home of Mr. Duncan, he remarked: "Were it not for A-dam Duncan the devil would walk around in this community in broad open daylight." Mr. Adam Duncan who was a prominent member of the Goose Pond Methodist Church was the father of Rev. Berry J. Duncan who was a member of the Tennessee Conference for thirty-eight years—1910-48. Goose Pond Methodist Church also gave to the Tennessee Conference Rev. C. R. Cunningham who was admitted on trial in 1926 and is now on the superannuate roll.

Goose Pond Methodist Church had its beginning about 1810. The church has a record of members in the year 1814. The first building was a log house which was used for church and school purposes. The seats were split logs supported with pegs and no backs. The log house gave way to a new building which was erected on the present lot in 1851. It was destroyed by fire in 1910 and soon thereafter the present building was erected.

The church has never failed to function in its 145 years of history. The membership today is about 100 and the Sunday school enrollment 75. Rev. O. H. Lane, retired, is our pastor.

THURMAN C. PARKER, *Historian*

PULASKI

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Richland was the name of the Methodist church in Pulaski when it appeared for the first time in the Minutes of Conferences which were printed in New York City in 1811. Therefore, the church was organized a year or two earlier than this date, certainly not later than 1810. The small congregation was an appointment on the Richland Circuit which took its name from Richland Creek upon which Pulaski is located.

For twenty years, 1811-31, the church continued as an appointment on the Richland Circuit, except in 1823 when a new pastoral charge was formed called "Pulaski and Upper Elkton." The new charge was premature for it continued only one year. This was the first year (1823) the name "Pulaski" was used in connection with the Methodist church.

In 1811, the Richland Circuit was a pastoral charge in the famous Cumberland District with headquarters in Nashville. It belonged to the Western Conference. In 1812 the Western Conference was divided by the General Conference in New York into the Tennessee and Ohio Annual Conferences. With the organization of the Tennessee Annual Conference at Fountain Head, near present-day Portland, November 12, 1812, the Nashville District was formed and the Richland Circuit was continued in the new district for seventeen years, 1812-29, except in 1821 and 1822 when it was placed in the Tennessee District, and in 1823 and 1824 when it was placed in the Huntsville District.

For two years, 1832-34, Pulaski was lifted from the Richland Circuit and placed with Columbia forming a new pastoral charge which was called "Pulaski and Columbia."

On account of the rapid growth of Methodism in the southern portion of the state, the Richland District was formed in 1829. The new district was composed of Methodist churches in Giles and adjoining counties. The official residence of the Presiding Elder was transferred from Nashville to Pulaski.

With the Methodist Church better organized in this area and with the Presiding Elder's headquarters in Pulaski, the local congregation became a station in the fall of 1834. It has continued undisturbed in this relationship until the present time—120 years. However, Methodism has continued like a golden thread in Pulaski for 144 years. The Methodist Church was organized before Pulaski was chartered and even before President James Madison (1809-17) made the land grant of 640 acres to the Commissioners of Pulaski in February 1811.

Judging by the history of other pioneer church buildings in Middle Tennessee, the first building in Pulaski must have been a log church, approximately 18 by 20 feet, and very likely with no provision for heating and lighting. It must have been erected with free labor in 1810 or earlier. Its location was near the end of Third Street, South.

The second church building we assume was a frame and was erected about 1815. Tradition states that it was located near the present county jail on South First Street. The twenty-second session of the Tennessee Annual Conference was held in this building November 6, 1833. It was in session the night the "stars fell." Dr. Robert Payne who was reared about seven miles from Pulaski and at that time was president of LaGrange College, an institution of the Tennessee Conference, gave a vivid description of the stars falling which helped to calm the fears of the people who thought the world was coming to an end.

The third church building was of brick construction and was erected at 302 North Second Street in 1851. It is today occupied by



Pulaski

the Church of Christ. It is a handsome structure and looks as if it might be used for another hundred years.

The present building, which is the fourth, was erected on the northwest corner of the Public Square, one block south of the third building. It is a beautiful, commodious brick structure with an inspiring tower. The cornerstone was laid in 1895 and the structure was occupied in 1901. The large educational unit was erected during the pastorate of Rev. W. S. Taylor in 1926. The congregation is wrestling with the problem of further expansion to provide adequately for its growing program of worship and activities. The church has a membership of 1,224.

Giles County since early pioneer days has been a fertile field for Methodism. It has today (1955) twenty-six Methodist congregations. This is due largely on account of the firm foundation laid by early Methodist preachers of national reputation. Among these leaders were the following: Rev. Learner Blackman was Presiding Elder in 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814. He was selected over noted ministers of other denominations by General Andrew Jackson to be his Chaplain during the War of 1812, and was with him in the Battle of New Orleans. Rev. Thomas L. Douglass succeeded Blackman on the district. He was a great administrator, a great preacher, and a great financier. Dr. John B. McFerrin was the first pastor of the Pulaski Methodist Church after it became a station in 1834. History regards him as one of the great men of American Methodism. Lack of space forbids even a brief statement of other distinguished preachers who served Pulaski and Giles County in the pre-Civil War period.

HATCHER GRIGSBY, *Historian*

BETHLEHEM

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

The original Bethlehem Meeting House stood about a mile and a half from the Nashville highway to the rear of present-day Bethlehem. It was a hewn cedar log building with eight corners. The church was organized and occupied this building about 1810. The sixteenth session of the Tennessee Annual Conference was held in this building October 20-29, 1815, by Bishop Francis Asbury and Bishop William McKendree. It was Bishop Asbury's last visit to Middle Tennessee and his last Annual Conference to preside over. He was very ill during this session. He was entertained in the home of a Mr. Babb who lived on the Hickory Ridge road a short distance from the seat of Conference.

The organization of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was begun in Bethlehem in 1859 and was completed in McKendree Methodist Church in Nashville in 1872. (The War Between the States disturbed the organization.)

The church was moved to the highway where the present building was erected in 1914 during the pastorate of Rev. W. F. Springer. The one hundred and thirtieth session of the Tennessee Conference was held in Lebanon, October 29-November 2, 1931. Bishop H. M. DuBose presided. On the third day, October 31, the Conference held an afternoon session at two o'clock in the Bethlehem Methodist Church. It was a historic session for it had been one hundred and sixteen years since Bishop Asbury and Bishop McKendree conducted the sixteenth session in the old building.

The old church is moving steadily forward. There are 90 church members and 90 enrolled in the Sunday school. Rev. J. B. Choate is our pastor.

MRS. JOHN E. PERRY, *Historian*

MOUNT LEBANON

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Mount Lebanon is located near the site where Methodism had its origin in Dickson County, Tennessee. In the year 1810, one-fourth mile northeast of the present location of Mount Lebanon Methodist Church, Smyrna Methodist Church was erected of logs. This building served for 40 years or until 1850 when W. S. Casalman gave two acres of land upon which a log church was erected. It was also used for school purposes. At this time the name of the church was changed from Smyrna to Mount Lebanon. This log building served for 29 years when it was destroyed by fire. Soon after the fire a committee was chosen, August 2, 1879, to erect another log building on the same site which served until 1913.

The cornerstone of the present beautiful frame building was laid the first Sunday in October 1913. Rev. W. L. Harwell who served 39 years in the active ministry, was pastor on this historic occasion. In recent years the church building has been modernized with the addition of six classrooms, choir loft, the installation of a Hammond organ and gas heat. Following are members of the present official board: Lowell Febue, Lester Sanders, Mark L. Brown, Bruen Baker, Mrs. Bruen Baker, Hubert Matlock, Ray Taylor, John D. Steele, Glenn Steele, R. Sam Steele (emeritus), L. S. Robinson (emeritus).

J. M. PUTNAM, *Historian*

WILLIAMSPORT

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

No one knows just when the Methodists began holding services in the Williamsport community, but it was one of the earliest churches to be organized in Maury County. The date is probably about 1810 or 1812. The number of charter members is likewise unknown, and also the name of the first pastor. There is a tradition that the Rev. John Crane, the first Methodist minister to die as a member of the Tennessee Conference, was one of the early pastors and very possibly the organizer of the church.

The earliest date of record of the Williamsport Methodist Church was 1813, when the Rev. John Cragg was pastor in charge. The church at that time was one of the appointments on the Duck River Circuit. For many years the Williamsport Church was a part of various circuits, including Smith Fork, Wayne Circuit, and the Bigby Circuit. But for most of its history, it has been the center of a circuit known by its name of Williamsport. At different times this church has also been in the following districts: Nashville, Cumberland, Florence, Columbia, Savannah, Lawrenceburg, and Mount Pleasant.

The record shows the first Presiding Elder to have been the Rev. Learner Blackman, one of the great leaders of the early church in Tennessee.

When the church was organized, the village was called Coleman's Ferry, but in 1817, the name was changed to Williamsport, and from that time the church has been known as the Williamsport Methodist Church. In the years from 1813 to 1817, the Methodist Preaching House was located on Washington Street, near the bank of Duck River. Records are vague from 1817-30. In the early 1830's, a new brick church was built, across the alley from where the parsonage now stands. This building was used until 1859, when the third and present building, which had been erected in 1850, by the people of another faith, as an academy and church, was purchased by the Methodist congregation.

The church was remodeled and church school rooms added in 1920, and again in 1948. So far as is known, services have been held regularly since the church was first organized. Church school records are available which date back for about one hundred years. A complete record has been kept since 1859.

The Williamsport Church has never had a large membership or experienced any periods of phenomenal growth, but has steadily maintained its standing through the years as a strong rural church. Its membership has probably never been much larger than the present 101.

Two men have gone into the ministry from this church. They were the Rev. Joseph M. Sowell and his son, Rev. Payton A. Sowell, who was an outstanding preacher and leader in the Tennessee Conference for many years.

E. G. GODWIN, *Pastor*

HAMPSHIRE

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The Hampshire Methodist Church had its roots in the Pisgah church located two and a half miles south of the town which was organized in 1810. ("Old Pisgah" which served faithfully for 143 years was abandoned in 1953.) As Hampshire became a community center, the Methodists in the village organized a church in 1857 and the first building was a log house. Although the building was never fully completed, it was used as a guardhouse during the War Between the States and was later burned. During the reconstruction period following the Civil War, the congregation used the first floor of the Masonic building for church activities until 1875 when a frame building was erected during the pastorate of Dr. A. G. Dinwiddie. This building was remodeled in 1912 during the pastorate of Rev. W. T. S. Cook and was used for fifteen years. The present brick structure was erected in 1927 when Rev. O. P. Gentry was pastor.

Rev. James Grimes entered the ministry from Hampshire and became a missionary to Mexico in the 1870's. Possibly the church is today experiencing its greatest service. The 142 members pay \$1,700 salary and a total benevolent offering of \$441.

J. L. NUTT, *Pastor*

ELKTON

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

"That church is surely doomed that takes neither pride nor pleasure in thinking upon a noble ancestry." Anonymous.

The community of Elkton was settled in 1808 at the mouth of Richland Creek on Elk River. It was an important shipping point for many years. In 1810 another town was laid off three miles up the river. To distinguish the settlements they were called Lower and Upper Elkton.

According to the records, Thomas Polk deeded a lot at Lower Elkton in 1810 for a school and church for "Presbyterians first, Methodist and other denominations." No doubt but the building erected was of logs. Rev. Alexander McDonald, a Methodist preacher,

preached in this church in 1812, the year the Tennessee Annual Conference was organized.

It is reasonable to conclude that the Methodist church in Upper Elkton was a continuation of the Methodist church in Lower Elkton. As the settlement in Lower Elkton decreased the settlement in Upper Elkton increased. The last Methodist service in Lower Elkton was conducted in 1812. Therefore, Methodism in Upper Elkton must have had its beginning in 1813. Upper Elkton was laid off in town lots in 1810. Lot No. 7 was set aside for church purposes. These lots were occupied for residences and business purposes as the new town slowly increased in population. A large two-story frame building was erected by the Methodists on lot No. 7. The upper story was occupied by the Masonic Lodge Number 24 which was chartered in 1819. The Methodist church was well organized and occupied the lower or first story of this building several years before the Masonic Lodge was in existence. By 1823, the church had grown so strong that it became a half station with Pulaski and the appointment read that year—"Pulaski and Upper Elkton."

Elkton Methodist Church became a station in 1883. Rev. R. R. Jones who had been a member of the Tennessee Conference since 1861 was assigned as the first station pastor.

The old two-story building which stood on lot No. 7 for over a hundred years was abandoned for church purposes in 1917 when the present beautiful brick edifice was erected. Rev. W. H. Beasley



Elkton

was the pastor. A corner lot one block removed from the old church was donated by "Elizabeth J. Beaty, J. E. Baugh and wife Lizzie." It has thirty-seven beautiful memorial windows.

Rev. David Thomas Ridgeway who is a member of the Mississippi Annual Conference entered the ministry from Elkton church. The church has a membership of 252. Rev. H. L. Smith is the present pastor.

MRS. RUTH BOTTOM EZELLE, *Historian*

CENTENARY

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

In the year 1800 William Gower, who had come from North Carolina and settled on the south side of the Cumberland River about nine miles west of Nashville, was converted and joined the Methodist Church. Shortly after his conversion he began to exhort and was later ordained to preach. At first he preached in his home on the Gower School Road. As soon thereafter as possible, a log church was built on a shelf of the hill across the creek from his home. There is no record of the membership of this church, which was called Gower Chapel after its founder.

Later, sometime prior to 1830, as the neighborhood grew, a new church was built nearby on the north side of Charlotte Pike on land donated by William Gower. This building was used as church and school until 1885 when Centenary Church was built one mile further west. When the Nashville District was organized, Centenary was one of the sixteen churches in the district.

As the years passed the congregation felt that it could serve the community better in a more central location and selected a site across from the school on the Gower School Road. The deed to this land is dated October 12, 1921. The church building was moved and rebuilt.

A few years later, about 1928, the building was completely demolished by a tornado. As there was no tornado insurance to cover the cost of rebuilding, funds had to be secured from other sources. A letter was mailed to each steward in the Nashville District, appealing to their churches for aid. The response from this appeal made possible the reconstruction of the building which has been in continuous use since that time.

A long term building program was begun in 1950. Sunday school rooms have been added and plans made for further expansion to meet the needs of a growing community.

The present membership is 168. Among the active members of the church are several descendants of its founder, William Gower, and its present location was a part of the old Gower estate.

FRANK L. LEGGETT, *Pastor*

CARTHAGE

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

We do not know the exact date of the organization of Methodism in Carthage. Bishop Asbury in his Journal referred to Carthage. Judging by the records available, there was a Methodist church here in the very late 1700's or early 1800's. The first Methodist building was located about a mile northwest of town. The Quarterly Conference records show that this building was sold in 1841 and that "the proceeds of the sale be applied to the new M.E. Church being erected on a lot granted to the church by John Cochran." This building now called "Braden's Chapel" is still in use as a Methodist church and occupied by Negroes.

The present brick structure was erected in 1888. The Sunday school annex was built in 1925 during the pastorate of Rev. Carl C. Hinkle. By 1950, the educational unit had become overcrowded and its size was doubled. (The church was made a station appointment in 1922.)

The Sunday school movement, as in other sections of Middle Tennessee, had a hard struggle in the "upper country." The question of "Sabbath schools" first appeared in the Quarterly Conference records of the Carthage Circuit in 1845. In those early years the circuit included much of Smith, Wilson, Trousdale, and Macon counties. There were only four schools in the circuit. Carthage was first mentioned as having a "Sabbath school" in 1858. The church school enrollment at the present time, 1955, is nearly 300, with adequate equipment and a well-trained staff of workers. The cause of Christian education has won a great victory since 1858.

The cause of missions has been stressed in this church since its very early beginning. The Carthage Circuit Missionary Society was organized in 1845. At the present time the Woman's Society of Christian Service and the Wesleyan Service Guild constitute one of the most aggressive organizations in our church with a total membership of nearly 100. There are over 400 church members.

Rev. Kelly J. Wilson entered the ministry from this church in 1942.

MRS. KELLY J. WILSON, *Historian*

MT. PISGAH

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Mt. Pisgah Methodist Church is located eight miles east of Pulaski, Tennessee, near highway number 64. The tract upon which the church stands was a gift by Rev. Alexander McDonald who united

with the Tennessee Annual Conference in 1838. He named the new church "Mt. Pisgah" on account of the high hill upon which it stands. It is one of the older Methodist churches in Giles County, dating from 1811 or 1812.

Dr. John B. McFerrin in his *Methodism in Tennessee* said, "Here, in Giles, was that great campground, Mount Pisgah, where for nearly a half century camp meetings were annually held, and where thousands of souls were brought to Jesus by the faith that justifies." Among the thousands were Robert Paine, Hartwell and Sterling Brown who were converted at a camp meeting at Mt. Pisgah in the fall of 1817. The Presiding Elder, Rev. Thomas L. Douglas, invited the three young men to attend the Annual Conference to be held in Franklin. There Thomas Paine felt the call to preach and was baptized by pouring at the seat of Conference by his pastor Rev. Miles Harper. He was licensed to preach at Rehoboth in January 1818. That was the beginning of a great ministry as a pastor, educator, bishop. The Brown brothers became members of the Tennessee Conference also.

Mt. Pisgah Methodist Church is proud of her tradition but her face is toward the future. The present pastor is Rev. James T. Parsons who was born and reared not far from the church.

MRS. LOGAN MONTGOMERY, *Historian*

WINDROW

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Windrow belongs to the Almaville Circuit in the Rockvale section of Rutherford County. It is the mother of Methodism in the county. The church grew out of a camp meeting conducted August 15, 1812. The camp ground was located on the western slope of a large hill, nine miles southwest of the present city of Murfreesboro, not then in existence. The four acres of ground was given by John Windrow. It was a beautiful grove of dense sugar maples. The Windrow camp meeting became an annual affair. People traveled long distances from Rutherford and adjoining counties for revival services. One of the great camp meetings was in 1820 when Rev. Sterling Brown was the chief preacher. He was converted in a camp meeting at Mt. Pisgah in Giles County in the fall of 1817 and was familiar with the technique of such services. Three hundred and fifty were converted at this meeting. The First Methodist Church in Murfreesboro, according to the *History of the Tennessee Conference* by Cullen T. Carter, was organized in 1820 as a result of the Windrow camp meeting in 1820.

The Windrow congregation tore down the original building in 1905 and moved to a new location down the hill about one hundred feet and erected a sturdier structure. It was not enjoyed long for in 1913, about five o'clock one afternoon, a cyclone swept the building away along with many other buildings in the area. Another building was erected in 1914.

The Windrow Methodist Church has never had a very large church membership. The membership today is only 27 with a Sunday school enrollment of 32. What it lacks in numbers is more than made up in loyalty to its traditions and the doctrine and polity of The Methodist Church. Rev. Robert Parks is pastor.

ARCHIE J. MACON, *Historian*

ALEXANDRIA

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

Methodism had its beginning in Alexandria early in 1800. The church was organized in 1813 during the pastorate of Rev. Burkett Ferrell. The building, similar to many others of that pioneer day, was a crude log house. Probably the present structure is the fourth to be occupied by the Methodists during the 142 years of history in Alexandria. We do not have the record of members for the first twenty-five years of the history of the church. Our records show that Catherine Eaton united with the church in 1838. Finis Rowland is the oldest living member who was received into the church September 13, 1891, and has been a steward for 44 years. One month and five days later, October 18, 1891, Robert V. Edwards was also received into the church. Rev. J. T. Blackwood who is now in his ninety-eighth year of age and resides in Monteagle was pastor when these two men were received.

Alexandria Methodist Church has never had a large membership but no church excels it in loyalty, devotion, and service according to its numerical strength. Its membership today stands at 96.

JAMES M. DAVIS, *Pastor*

BLOOMING GROVE

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Blooming Grove, one of the pioneer churches of Giles County, is located four miles northeast of Pulaski. The first church was organized by Rev. Alex McDonald, in the home of James Dugger, in

1813 with ten charter members. The first church building was of logs, cut from the giant trees that grew in the lovely valley. The second church, also of logs, was built in 1820, by Edward Marks and other members and was burned in 1853.

The present church was built immediately of finished material. Some years later it was enlarged to accommodate a growing membership, and so stands today. The present church has 114 members.

Among the prominent ministers was Rev. Will Allen Turner who fifty years ago wrote a full history of the church that was recently run in the county paper.

On October 17, 1954, the 141st anniversary of the church was observed, with an all-day service, a large crowd and the unveiling of a historic bronze plaque, attached to the front of the church and presented by Dr. Thomas Edward Brely, grandson of Edward Marks, one of the founders of the church.

Rev. J. T. Parsons, a retired minister who is now serving the church as pastor, is the only minister the church ever sent out.

JAMES T. PARSONS, *Pastor*

WOODBURY

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Dr. J. B. McFerrin, in his *History of Methodism in Tennessee*, says that up to 1812 the Nashville and Goose Creek Circuits covered most of the counties in Middle Tennessee. In 1812 a new arrangement was made, whereby Stone's River, Lebanon, and Caney Fork were added to the Nashville Circuit.

As early as 1812 there was regular preaching here in the homes of John Windrow, Thomas Jarrett, Charles Lock, James Rucker, and Nat Overall. Societies were organized and a log church was built as early as 1814. This house was followed by a frame structure a few years later. This frame building was moved to another location in 1845, and was destroyed by fire many years later. In 1845 this congregation erected a brick building on the ground from where they had moved the old frame structure. The first deed to this property was issued in 1845. The town commissioners of Woodbury made this first deed to Dr. C. T. New, A. Berger, James Wood, Ben Sap, and A. J. Wood as trustees of the Methodist Church, South. This brick house was rebuilt a decade or two after the turn of the century. They left off the original belfry, and in 1935 the old bell was given to the city of Woodbury to be used on the new courthouse clock to strike the time of day, and it is in use to this day as such.

In 1952 this building underwent a thorough remodeling at the

cost of about \$5,000.00, and is now one of the finest chapels in the entire country and second to none.

Some of the early preachers who served this church were: James J. Trott, a missionary at large in Tennessee, Archelous Prather, and Henry Fite. Some of the early members of this church were: Bates, McFerrins, Olivers, Pages, Mitchells, Shackletts.

R. E. STEVENSON, *Pastor*

SPRING HILL

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

As early as 1809, Zadock B. Thaxton, then riding the Red River Circuit, formed the Duck River Circuit which took in all of what is now Maury County.

In 1810 Nathaniel F. Cheairs moved to Spring Hill from North Carolina to take a tract of land offered him for services in the Revolutionary War. For about three years after this, John Crane came to the Cheairs home and held services. A Methodist society was organized in 1812 under the direction of Crane. Irene, Wharton and Rose Cheairs, great-grandchildren of Nathaniel Cheairs, still reside in Spring Hill and take an active part in the Methodist church.

In 1814 James Peters and others erected a log church some three hundred yards west of present church location and Methodists had a home in Spring Hill. This was known as Peters Camp Ground. It was not so famous as some other camp grounds in Middle Tennessee but it did provide a place for the circuit rider to hold services.

Sometime after 1814 a brick building was built and served the congregation until 1846. This building was completed during the time when Francis Asbury and William McKendree were the presiding bishops of the new Tennessee Conference.

In 1838 Spring Hill was taken off the Duck River Circuit and placed on a two-point circuit with Franklin. This situation existed until 1843 when Spring Hill Circuit was formed. At one time the circuit was so large that it required the time of three circuit riders.

After the Plan of Separation was adopted in 1844 and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, came into being, Methodism in Spring Hill began a new era. The present location of the church was purchased from J. L. Crutcher on August 25, 1846, at a cost of \$145.60. On this newly acquired lot a brick structure was erected and it must have been a pleasure for Russell Askew, the pastor, to report to the Annual Conference and in the presence of Bishop Robert Paine that a new building had been built.

In 1855 Spring Hill Church was removed from Spring Hill Circuit

and made Spring Hill "Station." From that year until the present it has remained a station church with the membership never being much over 200. John Matthews was the first pastor of Spring Hill Station.

During the Civil War the church building narrowly missed destruction. History records that what became the "Battle of Franklin" could have been the "Battle of Spring Hill" had General John B. Hood followed up his advantage over the Union troops at this time. He failed to do this, however, and the Federal forces moved out of Spring Hill and took new position at Franklin where the battle ensued. Had battle been pitched at Spring Hill it is concluded that the church would have been destroyed since breastworks had been thrown up running east and west of the building.

The building erected in 1846 stood until 1886 when it was torn away for the erection of the present sanctuary. The cost of this building was about \$5,000 and was finished during the ministry of Louis Powell. Some of the brick in the Ante-Civil War church can be seen in the present building.

In 1912 the first church school annex was added. Mr. E. H. Ayers and Mr. John H. Nichols were most active in this endeavor and the annex bore the names of these men.

In 1949 the Ayers-Nichols annex was torn away and an up-to-date church school plant was built during the ministry of Richard Roe.

ELWOOD DENSON, *Pastor*



Spring Hill

BETHESDA

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The Bethesda Methodist Church, located seven miles southeast of Pulaski, Tennessee, was erected in 1819. It was built by James Payne, father of Bishop Robert Payne, and was assisted by James Abernathy, father of Colston and Hartwell Abernathy, and Lewis Brown, father of the Revs. Hartwell and Sterling Brown who were members of the Tennessee Conference in the early 1820's. The church was built of heavy log work with a stick and dirt chimney and a fireplace six feet wide. The pews were split logs mounted on pegs without backs. It was dedicated by Rev. Philip Bruce. In the dedicatory sermon he said: "I suppose we will need mercy and as Bethesda means the house of mercy, we will call our new church Bethesda."

A frame house supplanted the original log house in 1825 and was relocated one fourth of a mile northeast of the original lot. The lumber of the new building was sawed by hand. Mr. Joab Ross planned the building and assisted in the construction. Although the building has been in constant use for 130 years it is in a fine state of preservation and looks as if it could be used for many decades to come. The first trustees of the present building were Davis Brown, James Abernathy, Colston Abernathy, Ethelbert Abernathy, James Payne, Beverly Brown. Others who gave active support were Bishop Robert Payne, his half brother Rev. T. G. Payne, Rev. W. T. Andrews and Rev. John H. Birdsong. Rev. Sterling Brown, who died in 1821, was the first person to be buried in the Bethesda Church Cemetery.

Religious services were conducted by Methodist preachers since 1815 at which time Rev. Joshua Buckner was pastor. The famous Rev. Miles Harper was pastor in 1816. Over a hundred pastors have served this church since those early years. Rev. Wray Tomlin, a student in Martin College, is the present pastor.

There was a Sunday school connected with this embryo church, but conducted differently from the present mode; there was no Sunday school literature available at that time so the class leader would read a chapter from the Bible then ask questions on the chapter read; sacred history was also read accordingly, while the smaller pupils answered questions from a catechism provided for them.

Hartwell P. Abernathy was a class leader for over thirty years. He served as Sunday school superintendent when a very young man and again in his old age.

The present church trustees are James Owen, Astor White, and Nettie M. Bennett White. MRS. NETTIE MAY WHITE, *Historian*

BEE SPRING MEMORIAL

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The original Bee Spring Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was located three miles northeast of Bryson and fifteen miles southeast of Pulaski. It was organized in 1815 by Rev. Elam Stevenson who was assisted by Stephen Loyd, Meshack Boice, James McCowan, and probably others. Rev. Elam Stevenson was a son of James Stevenson who was a captain in the Revolutionary War. He professed religion in 1804 and united with the church in 1806. He was licensed to preach in 1813 and the same year moved to Tennessee. His parents were members of the Presbyterian Church.

"The first house was built of logs with rib poles to nail the crude but substantial boards together for a roof. For heating in winter, a huge stone chimney was used taking up almost half of one end of the house. The seats were made of split logs. Holes were bored into the logs and pegs were driven in for legs. The seats had no backs." This building was used for both church and school. On account of the small size of this building it was replaced by a larger building of logs in 1822 or 1823. "In those days, we have been told, the people often walked ten or twelve miles to this church in order to worship God."

The third church building was erected in 1855. It was a frame structure 36x50 feet and was built by W. C. and J. W. Hollis. The building committee was composed of the following: C. W. McGuire, J. C. Stevenson, and W. R. Bruce. \$1,200 was paid for labor. Much labor was donated. All the lumber was dressed by hand. The building was kept well roofed and painted. The membership was small and consisted largely of the families of the McClaurines, Loyds, McGuires, Sherrills, Moseleys, Bruces, Rowses, and Stevensons.

On the night of April 29, 1909, the Bee Springs Memorial Methodist Church was totally destroyed by the memorable and terrible tornado which passed through this section of Giles and Lincoln Counties, leaving in its wake devastation, ruin, wreck, and death, the like of which has never been experienced by any locality in the Southland's history. Within a short time after the cyclone, a very substantial church building was erected at Bryson three miles away in a more central location. It was the fourth building of this historic Methodist congregation and carried the same name. It is today a very substantial and progressive church in its one hundred and fortieth year of age.

In the long history of Bee Spring Memorial it has had 125 pastors counting the junior pastors in the early years of its history. In the long list were Joshua Boucher in 1820, Dawson Phelps in 1836, R. M.

Haggard in 1869, T. B. Fisher in 1876, W. J. Collier in 1882, J. G. Gibson in 1890, and T. F. Kellum, J. G. Harper, Marshall Lovell, Eugene Lovell, John Mabrey, H. M. McConnel, are among the pastors of late years. Ezell Harrison, Jr., is our present pastor.

STERLING E. STOVALL, *Historian*

MANCHESTER

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Manchester Methodist Church had its beginning in 1815. It was not known as Manchester. It could have been called "Fort" for the ancient stone fort nearby and the church is located today on Fort Street. The first building like others of that pioneer period was of log construction.

Coffee County was established by an act of the Tennessee Legislature January 8, 1836. On March 1, 1836, James Erwin and Andrew Hines donated two hundred acres for the seat of justice in Coffee County. In May 1836, the County Court of Coffee County made plans to have the town of Manchester laid off. August 5, 1836, George W. Richardson and seven other commissioners were appointed by the County Court with authority to sell lots and execute deeds. Lot number 51 was donated to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Manchester. This lot is located west of the Public Square at the "corner of Fort and Church Streets" so named by the commissioners. The Methodist church has been in possession of this property since the town was laid off in 1836.

It is reasonable to believe that the original church building was located on a lot, that in 1836, became lot number 51, which may explain why this lot was donated to the trustees of the Methodist church which it had occupied for twenty-one years. And it is also reasonable to believe that the same log building was used until 1852. Evidently, the second building was a frame house and occupied the same lot.

In 1883, a brick building was erected. It was 31x55 feet and one story. William Thomas Harden, who was born February 16, 1870, and who was living in 1949, stated that he hauled water for the erection of this building and that he was paid ten cents per day for his labor. He also said that Nelson Scott and his son Tom made the brick in Manchester for the church building. Boys in Manchester helped make the brick and were paid twenty-five cents per day for their labor.

In 1916, during the pastorate of Rev. W. A. Stroud, a Sunday school addition was erected to the one-room brick building to provide

more room for the growing school. Ninety-two people subscribed and paid \$2,399.25 which was supplemented by about \$600 to complete the building. Mr. C. D. Farrar was treasurer of the building fund. Mr. R. W. Casey was superintendent of the Sunday school. The membership of the church was 284.

The rebuilding of Manchester Methodist Church in 1948 and 1949 was a modern miracle. One of the very first statements by the new pastor, Rev. Cullen T. Carter, October 11, 1948, to the official board was: "The church building should be adequate, comfortable, worshipful and beautiful." From that statement until November 13, 1949, when the new building was formally opened—thirteen months and two days—God, with the loyal, sacrificial and steady support of the members and friends, wrought wonders. The building committee, composed of B. G. Morton, H. L. Rogers, J. M. Keylon, Dr. Myrtt Winton, H. D. Murchison, and A. J. Tanner, devoted long hours in many conferences and meetings to the erection of the magnificent plant. All conclusions were reached by majority vote. Not one jar or ill feeling was ever revealed during the entire procedure. It was thought in the beginning that \$45,000.00 would be sufficient for the building and furnishings. When the enterprise was finished it cost about \$65,000.00. All this amount was raised in cash except \$20,000.00 which was borrowed from the Murfreesboro Federal Savings and Loan Association, repayable in monthly installments of \$212.14.

At a meeting of the official board, Monday night, June 6, 1949, Mr. Omer L. Rogers was unanimously elected treasurer of the building fund in place of Mr. Oscar Meadows Stepp who died suddenly June 4, 1949. The new building has a frontage of ninety feet and a depth of eighty-five feet. The entire plant provides adequate equipment for worship, instruction, and recreation for all departments of a large modern church plant. The music room provides for the tone cabinet and chimes which was built according to specifications. The memorial chimes costing \$500.00 were given by Mrs. John Emerson in memory of her husband who passed away February 14, 1949.

If space permitted, we would give the names of all those who paid from twenty-five cents to twenty-five hundred dollars to the building fund. And especially give the names of those like Miller Jernigan and Harry Graham Miller who gave not only money but much free labor. However, the history of this enterprise would be incomplete without a brief mention of the work of Dr. Howard Farrar who was chairman of the official board during the period of construction. This board formulated all the plans and policies of the enterprise. As one of the busiest men in Manchester and Coffee County, he was never too

busy to attend meetings and conferences in the interest of the new building, and was the largest contributor to the cause. Without his support, leadership, and inspiration the story of the new church building would be different from that portrayed in this brief history.

During the pastorate of Rev. Haskell Henry, 1944 and 1945, the church erected a beautiful brick parsonage at a cost of \$8,000. It has two stories and a full basement, heated with an oil burning furnace and hot water radiators. It faces Fort Street.

Immediately following the adjournment of the Annual Conference of 1948, the official board authorized the erection of a brick garage at the rear of the parsonage which cost a thousand dollars.

During the year 1952 a beautiful carpet was laid in the sanctuary at a cost of \$1,600. And in 1953 the chapel was remodeled. Three beautiful memorial windows, a lovely Baldwin Acrosonic piano, and furniture were installed at a cost of \$3,500. Total valuation of the entire plant, including the parsonage, is over \$100,000.

J. F. SWINEY, *Pastor*

BETHEL

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Bethel is located south of Pulaski in Giles County near the Alabama state line not far from Elk River. It is at the head of a beautiful valley in which are many fine farms. It became a community center early in 1800, and remained a trading center until the coming of modern highways and transportation which created a shift in population. From the beginning of its early history the community was blessed with a strong citizenship in the Gilberts, Edmondsons, Leggs, Maples, Smiths, Gatlins, Meadows, Barnes, Dunnavants, Lucas, Reagins, Grigsbys, Potts, Inmans, Watts, Rogers, Hightowers, Moores, Browns, and other prominent citizens. Many descendants of these families remain in Bethel and environs until this day.

The Methodist church had its beginning in Bethel as early as 1817. No doubt the first church building was erected of logs and stood in the center of the community on a corner lot. In 1829, twelve years after the church had its beginning, a great revival of religion was conducted. As a result of this revival several men carried the good news to neighboring communities and were instrumental in organizing churches at Prospect, Mt. Carmel, and Friendship. Very likely Kedron Methodist Church had its inspiration in this great revival.

The second building was a two-story frame structure and very likely occupied the lot upon which the log church was located.

It was erected about 1845. The church occupied the first floor and the Masonic Lodge No. 194 occupied the second story. The Lodge was chartered March 10, 1850. During the Civil War, following the battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862, Sherman's army passed through Bethel. Union soldiers endeavored to break in the church by piercing the front door with bayonets and when informed that a Masonic Lodge occupied the second story, made no further efforts to enter. The scars may be seen on the door until this day. The first story is today a community center and the Masonic Lodge still occupies the second story.

In 1900, the congregation felt the need for a new and more modern church building. Mr. Leonard Parkes, a manufacturer of Nashville, who married the half sister of Mr. W. S. Gilbert, donated a building lot one block west of the old building. Upon this lot a beautiful new building and modern for that day was erected. It was furnished with circular pews and beautiful memorial windows. One of the windows was in memory of Mr. Isaac Smith (Uncle Ike), who was one of the strong pillars of the church and was living at the time of installation. The new church, which is occupied today, was erected during the pastorate of Rev. T. A. Carden. It was dedicated in May 1906, during the pastorate of Rev. John Durrett by the Presiding Elder, Rev. John A. McFerrin. Since 1928, Bethel has been an appointment on the Prospect pastoral charge.

WILBUR C. FOLKS, *Pastor*

BRANDON'S CHAPEL

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Brandon's Chapel was organized about 1818 and for many years worshiped in an old log church building. It was not until 1885 that a deed was secured for the lot upon which the church now stands. Mrs. Mary Brandon, wife of Lemuel Brandon, by exchange of property deeded this lot. The deed was registered August 7, 1885, in Deed Book 3, page 242. The present building was erected upon this lot in 1886. Rev. Samuel J. Shasteen was pastor.

During the pastorate of Rev. J. T. Majors in 1930, the Ladies' Aid Society was organized "which has continued all these years." In 1951, the Sunday school rooms were erected at the rear of the building by the York brothers. The first Sunday in October of this year the Sunday school unit was dedicated.

Rev. J. C. Sandusky is our pastor.

MRS. WILMA REYNOLDS, *Historian*

BURWOOD

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Methodism in the Burwood community began 136 years ago. According to a deed in the register's office of Williamson County on August 13, 1818, John "Parson" Pope deeded two acres of land for "a place of worship" to trustees, Samuel Akin, John Moore, and James Patton.

On this land given by "Parson" Pope, a Methodist Episcopal church was built. No records are now available telling when the church building was completed. The church building was a substantial one-room brick structure approximately 34x40 feet. In style, it was the typical, early American meetinghouse.

For many years, around 1880, Pope's Chapel was noted for the camp meetings held each summer. On its grounds, families from a distance built cabins in which to camp for the duration of the meeting. Also, there was a large shedlike building in which the services were held.

In 1911 Pope's Chapel was destroyed by a cyclone. From that time until the church was built at Burwood, the congregation met in a nearby schoolhouse for its "preaching services." The Sunday school disbanded, but some months later began meeting in a vacant house in Burwood on the Sundays when there was no "preaching" at the schoolhouse.

In 1912 the congregation decided to build a church at Burwood. The Pope's Chapel grounds were sold. One acre of land was purchased at Burwood from the late W. A. Shaw. The price paid was \$125. The trustees to whom the land was deeded, June 7, 1912, were W. J. Akin, R. D. Clark, N. A. Boyd, R. E. Thweatt, A. R. Sparkman.

In the spring of 1913 a frame church was erected, consisting of the present auditorium. Many of the logs were donated by R. E. Thweatt. Practically all of the labor was given with W. J. Akin serving as head carpenter. In 1931 an entrance hall and two Sunday school rooms were added.

From the beginning the new church was called Burwood Methodist Church. Rev. D. B. Coleman was pastor when the church was completed. Rev. J. J. Stowe, the Presiding Elder, dedicated the church.

Around 1920, a Woman's Missionary Society was organized by Miss Sally Ridley of the Thompson Station Methodist Church. Mrs. Mary Thweatt Shaw was the first president, serving in that capacity for 15 years.

Today Burwood Methodist Church has 108 members, an enrollment of 76 in the church school, and 11 members in the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

ROBERT W. WALKER, *Pastor*

MT. ZION

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Located on the edge of the village of Frankewing, on the eastern border of Giles County, on the L. & N. Railroad, and U.S. Highway 64, and State Highway 15. Originally a one-room log building on a nine-acre lot, donated by Chip Harwell, for a church and cemetery. Charter members were Coleman Harwell, George Davenport, Catherine Harwell, Lewis Williamson, Levi Sherrill, Stith Harwell, Elizabeth Sherrill, and Nancy Williamson, all by certificate, in the year 1818. The first pastor was John Seaton, appointed by the Tennessee Conference in 1817. Mt. Zion became a part of the Pisgah Charge.

The present building was built about 1850—one hundred yards south of the original. In 1945 the auditorium was remodeled, and four Sunday school rooms were added. About 1915 Mt. Zion was shifted from the Pisgah Charge to the Diana Charge. It has 136 members; has preaching twice a month the year round; Sunday school with eighty members enrolled. We solicit the prayers of all Christians for spiritual progress.

L. M. MARKS, *Historian*

COOK'S

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

In the early 1800's, an old Methodist circuit rider named Fountain E. Pitts paused to rest on his way upon a dusty wagon trail under a great oak tree at the crest of a hill. Suddenly it came to him that here was a place of worship and he knelt and prayed to the Lord to help him build a church on that spot. Soon afterward, about 1819, a plot of land was given by the Cook family and the old Cook's Camp Ground was organized where men and women came to worship under a brush arbor.

On the twenty-second day of January 1844 one Less M. Cook granted enough land for a church to be built. The first trustees of this Methodist Episcopal Church were John Kelley, Alfred Moore, Green B. Cook, Dorrell Freeman, and Allen Bass.

In later years this first building had to be replaced which was done in 1898. It still stands today as the Cook's Methodist Church. Some of the deceased ministers who once served as pastors were

Rev. Peter Funk, Rev. John H. Nickols, and Rev. Dow Ensor. The present minister is Rev. J. B. Choate.

Since the beginning of the year 1955 the church members have spent hundreds of dollars on the interior, making it again beautiful for worship.

Today it stands, nestled in the Tennessee hills, its spire a beacon to God and eternity to those who worship there and to those who traveled the old wagon trail, now U.S. Highway 70, the Broadway of America.

J. B. CHOATE, *Pastor*

MT. PISGAH

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The church was organized in 1820. The first church was burned by the Federal Army. Since that time there have been two church houses built. The one that is standing now is in good repair. The church is on same ground three miles north of Quebeck, Tennessee.

There is one known preacher, Fred Hembree, from this church. According to the History we have there were four others: Jeremiah Webb, Peter Burum, Thomas E. Hudson, and Joseph Knowles.

According to our records the first Sunday school to be organized in White County was at Mt. Pisgah.

At this place the people would gather and camp for weeks for the purpose of worshipping God and they would blow the conch shell to call the people together. The last camp meeting was in the year 1880.

In the year 1808 the first grave was dug at Mt. Pisgah. At present there are several hundred.

W. M. STOWERS, *Pastor*

MURFREESBORO (First Church)

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The Methodist Church in Murfreesboro was organized in 1820 as a result of a camp meeting held at Windrow's Camp Ground. There were almost forty members who met for a time in a home on College Street but soon they built a small church, 30x40 feet, on Maple Street across from Crichlow Elementary School where the new building of the Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation now stands. By 1828 there were about 120 members with perhaps one third of them Negroes. In 1830 the church became a station. The first pastor of the church was Robert Paine who afterward was made a bishop.

The Tennessee Conference was held here in 1828 with Bishop

Joshua Soule presiding and Thomas L. Douglas, secretary. Cullen T. Carter in *History of the Tennessee Conference* says:

"A delegation of Indians attended the session of the Tennessee Conference at Murfreesboro, December 4, 1828. The presence of the Indians inspired the conference to greater missionary endeavor and it was a blessing also to the Indians. Rev. Turtle Fields headed the delegation of Cherokees.

"'Old Mother Wasson' was a member of the Murfreesboro Methodist Church in its early history. She had the honor and high privilege of receiving from the hands of John Wesley the elements of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Her seat in the church was never vacant."

The church grew so rapidly in the early years that a new building was soon needed and so in 1843 a good brick house was erected on Church Street right across College Street from the present sanctuary. The north wall of this building still stands with the date, 1843, visible rather high up on the outside. There was a gallery in this church for the negro members, presumably slaves of the white members. This church was used until 1888 when the present building was erected.

After 1844 and until 1940 this was a Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The greatest men of that great church often preached from its pulpit. Before 1850 John B. McFerrin, editor of the *Christian Advocate*, sometime preached here and later two of his nephews



Murfreesboro—First Church

were pastors of this church. They were John P. McFerrin and A. P. McFerrin. Many great revivals were held in the church.

Soule College, which stood for more than sixty years on North Maple Street, at the site of the First Church building, was named for Bishop Joshua Soule and was closely allied with the Methodist Church, although it was privately owned.

In 1910 the church school building and the parish house were built during the pastorate of T. C. Ragsdale.

Two of the former pastors serving First Church were made bishops, Bishop Robert Paine and Bishop Paul B. Kern.

In 1951 the church received two wonderful memorial gifts. The complete air conditioning of the sanctuary was presented by the family of the late Allen Thurman Ragland in his memory. The new pipe organ was presented by Miss Love Haynes in memory of her mother, Mrs. Annie Snell Haynes.

With the growth of Murfreesboro it became apparent that there was need for another Methodist church. In 1929 James Reed Cox was named as pastor of the new congregation which was known as College Place Church. The first service in the new church was held on August 6, 1930.

In 1947 the location of College Place Church was changed to the present site, 1403 East Main Street. The name was changed to St. Mark's Church and the present beautiful building was erected during the pastorate of Ben Alexander when the congregation was increased through the support of many families from the mother church who realized the need for workers in the newer congregation.

First Church has continued to grow and work is now being completed on a magnificent new educational building. In 1954 the remaining corner lot was purchased at Church and College Streets, giving the congregation an entire front of one block in the heart of downtown Murfreesboro.

The cornerstone of the new building was laid March 20, 1955, in impressive rites led by Bishop Roy E. Short, Rev. A. J. Davis, the District Superintendent, and Rev. Marquis Triplett, the pastor.

First Church is proud of her history—111 years on the corner of Church and College Streets. Her motto and goal is to go on "Serving Through the Years."

MARQUIS J. TRIPLETT, *Pastor*

SHELBYVILLE (First Church)

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Methodism came to Bedford County, according to the best information, in 1808 at what was then known as Salem Camp Grounds.

Annual camp meetings were held here as Methodism began to take root in this section.

In 1820 at this camp meeting it is said that thousands of souls were brought to Jesus Christ. Out of this meeting, the Methodist Church in Shelbyville was organized.

The first church erected was a plain frame building on Depot Street where the First Baptist Church now stands. Worship services were held here until 1830 when the church was destroyed by a cyclone.

The next church was located on what is now North Main Street. The building was of brick and cost the sum of \$3,000.00. Here the Methodists met for the next fifty years. On August 19, 1880, this building was sold to the First Christian Church for the sum of \$1,500.00. On October 20, 1879, the Methodist church bought a lot on the northwest corner of the Square from Connally F. Trigg for the sum of \$800.00. On this lot the present sanctuary now stands.

The cornerstone of this building was laid in February, 1880. Mr. George W. Moody was the chairman of the building committee and the following were the trustees: Cy Maorman, chairman, D. G. Shappard, C. J. Moody, John W. Ruth, J. W. Haynes, W. M. Bryant, Evander Shappard, and W. R. Haynes.

The first Sunday school was organized in 1845.

The first Missionary Society was organized on August 15, 1846, and was composed of men. It is not known just what happened to this organization. Later a society was organized for women with the following women being active in its promotion: Mrs. Annie Myers, Mrs. Thomas R. Thompson, Sallie Landers, Mrs. Evander Shappard, Mrs. Mollie Haynes, Mrs. Annie Crockett Deery, and Misses Maggie and Fannie Cox.

The organ for the church was bought and installed in 1911.

The need for expansion became desperate and in 1933 the church purchased a lot just east of the sanctuary for the sum of \$2,501.00 on which to erect an educational building. After several years, plans were made and the Harry L. Woosley Memorial Annex was completed and dedicated by Bishop Paul B. Kern on August 27, 1950.

The First Methodist Church in Shelbyville has been privileged to entertain the Annual Conference in the following years: 1825, 1849, 1868, 1883, 1897, 1920, and 1936.

At the present time, plans are just about complete for the building of a much-needed sanctuary. It is the plan of all that this will be completed early in 1956.

From a small beginning the congregation has grown to 1,140 members. The church school has an enrollment of 840. The Woman's Society of Christian Service has a membership of 230.

PAUL F. LANIUS, *Pastor*

SALEM

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Salem Methodist Church is regarded as the oldest in Putnam County. It was established about 135 years ago by Rev. Isaac Buck and his son Jonathan Buck. The Reverend Mr. Buck, who also established Buck College, a pre-Civil War school in Putnam County, served Salem Church as pastor in the early years and was described by some as a "very capable minister." The Salem camp meeting grounds were widely known and used before the Civil War and the Salem cemetery is the oldest in Putnam County.

In recent years Salem Church has remained a vital part of the Salem community. Many Methodists in this area can trace part of their heritage to someone who went to Salem.

The present frame building at Salem replaced one destroyed by fire several years ago and it is being expanded by the addition of several Sunday school rooms.

The Salem Church is part of the Salem-Paran Charge now but was part of the old Cookeville Circuit before it was dissolved in 1948. Many young pastors in the past are now serving churches of importance in the Tennessee Conference.

ALEX W. NICHOLS, *Pastor*

BURNS

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Methodism in the Fourth District of Dickson County, Tennessee, followed in the wake of the Great Revival that had its beginning in the Cumberland Valley of Kentucky in 1810, spreading southward to Tennessee and beyond.

Insofar as can be determined Lorenzo Dow, an itinerant minister and circuit rider, was the first herald of the Cross into this particular locality. He was greeted upon his entrance in 1820 by a very rugged and sparsely settled wilderness, with little travel opportunity other than the few trails left by Indians, hunters, sporadic emigrants and roving bands of exploiters through the defiles and all-but-impenetrable cane brakes. Travel in this area consequently was slow and tedious, a footsore experience. However, Dow was dauntless in his efforts toward planting the gospel message among this people. His indomitable spirit undismayed at the existing circumstances, he is reputed to have traveled these long, hard miles cheerfully to conduct church services for them.

The majority of the early settlers in the district had retained affiliation in the respective churches in the communities from whence they had come, but desired mightily to organize a church to serve this locality. They received Brother Dow with genuine thankfulness; and with his support, encouragement and Christian effort took the initial steps toward realizing their great desire for a meeting place. They applied themselves assiduously to the construction and completed the edifice, ready for services, at early autumn about the year 1820.

Among those notably connected with the organization and advancement of the original church were one Sarah Davidson, a very pious lady who had emigrated from North Carolina only a short time previously, and a Mr. and Mrs. William Austin, emigrants from Albemarle County, Virginia. These three were most conspicuous pillars of strength and support. Mr. Austin and his wife bore the major financial burden incurred in the erection of the building. Mrs. Davidson contributed the site and all the timber essential to its construction.

The site donated for the building was an area southward a short distance from Mrs. Davidson's home. It was across and slightly beyond Beaver Dam Creek from her home, nestled within the recesses of an impressive grove of trees and therefore deep within the bosom of the wilderness. A cold, clear, sparkling spring bubbled near by. In humble beginnings, amid humble but grandiose surroundings, this church was called, simply, "The Methodist Church."

The church grew progressively larger and reached its zenith at about 1850. It was at this time that it began to appear advisable to move to a more centralized location in the district. By now, with the building of a good road and reasonably good connecting roads, and with the rumors persisting of a railway to be built through the area, activity had begun to drift northward. Recent emigrants were settling a few miles northwest, near what is now Burns, and former members of the church were fast moving elsewhere. None of the roads, however, had yet reached out to the church location, resulting in its extreme isolation. In order, then, to guarantee survival to the church it was moved to a site some two miles north of the former location, upon the summit of a gently rolling hill surrounded by a grove of majestic oaks, close to the Beaver Dam Creek and to a good and passable road.

This church became known as "The Marvin's Chapel" Church and so appears with its identifying location given as "Burns Station on Beaver Dam Creek" in an 1880 "History of Dickson County."

With the increased convenience much new interest and activity ensued and continued thus until the outbreak of the War Between

the States. During this turbulent period the church was thrown into an inactive state but began functioning anew immediately following the restoration of peace.

About the break of the century, when the settlement known as Burns Station had advanced from a tiny hamlet into the thriving village of Burns, reposing as it was on the Memphis highway from Nashville, it was deemed expedient to move the church into the village. This was accomplished and September 25, 1903, found the little white frame church in its present location, on the main road at a right-angle turn in the center of the village of Burns.

At the time of its present building the church was added to the White Bluff Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, composed then of White Bluff, Kingston Springs, Lone Oak (in its old location on the Harpeth River), and the since discontinued Amanda's Chapel churches. The Amanda's Chapel was at that time a union church, serving both Methodist and Presbyterian congregations, though served from the Waverly or Dickson Districts of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Two other churches were added later to this circuit: Craggie Hope in 1907 and Pegram about 1928. The charge remained either a five- or six-point charge during these times until 1949, when under the district superintendency of Brother C. B. Cook and the pastorate of Jacob H. Gardner it was broken up into two circuits. The Kingston Springs Church headed up a circuit composed of Lone Oak, Craggie Hope, and Pegram Churches, and Burns combined with White Bluff to become the White Bluff-Burns Charge, with parsonage at White Bluff.

The village of Burns remains a typical and friendly rural area trading spot. It is still on the railroad, and indeed a large part of its residents are retired railroad folk. But today it is off the main highway between Nashville and Memphis, suffering the same fate as its sister town and church at Kingston Springs. Both towns were bypassed by the relatively new straightening of the curves of Highway 70. Area growth is slow now but the membership of this church remains lightly over the hundred mark, serving perhaps fifty to seventy per Sunday morning worship. Because of the dedication to the ministry of one of its members, Jesse Willard Brown, this year, and thanks to his consecrated, persistent and excellent efforts in God's "harvest fields," it has been possible to hold two worship services and a church school every Sunday and a midweek Bible study and prayer meeting each Thursday night. It has an active youth fellowship and remains an active, warm and cooperative church in all respects.

JOHN L. VAN NESS, *Pastor*

HENRYVILLE

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

As Henryville was the first settlement in Lawrence County in 1817, the first Methodist church, Mt. Moriah, was erected at the old camp meeting ground in 1820. In the late 1840's, William Pennington, grandfather of R. T. Shields, deeded land for a Methodist church building. The upper story was used as a Masonic Hall, which got its charter in 1857. The frame of this church was hewn by hand and put together with pins. The old church Bible printed in 1823 has records of the Henderson family whose death dates were 1830-33.

According to R. T. Shields the first Presiding Elder he recalls was Peyton Sowell, who held quarterly conference here with total receipts of one dollar. One suggested giving it to the pastor, but Sowell said, "No, I'll divide it according to Methodist regulations." Later, Bolton, Stewart, McFerrin, J. T. Blackwood, Jarratt, Stowe, Blue, Tinnon, and Nolan presided at conferences here. Preaching was once a month. Transportation was by horseback with saddlebags like the doctors used. Reverend Wholesale lived at Ethridge, pastored five churches, rode horseback, made a crop during the week with his horse. One Sunday was so cold that A. A. Patterson, R. T. Shields, and others got him an overcoat. In expressing his gratitude he forgot his Bible. For years this old church was used as a schoolhouse. The present church was erected around 1922.

DORRIS SMOTHERMAN, *Pastor*

MT. NEBO

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The Mt. Nebo Methodist Church is located just off State Highway No. 50, eight miles west of Columbia, on one of the highest hills of this section of Maury County. It is the site of one of the noted camp meeting grounds of the early nineteenth century. The exact date of organization, who organized it, or the number of charter members is unknown. Some of the great men of early Methodism in Tennessee shared in these meetings. One of the converts of the camp meeting days was James Knox Polk, who lived in Columbia at the time, and later became Governor of Tennessee and President of the United States. One of the Methodist leaders of that day, Rev. John B. McFerrin, was the pastor.

As to membership, the earliest date known is of a young man who joined the church in 1826, but it was probably organized some years earlier, as he was not a charter member. The first pastor of

record was two years later, in 1828, when Rev. Dixon McLeod preached here. Names of earlier pastors have been lost.

The first church (date built unknown) was a log cabin located a little west of the present building, on the brow of the hill. In 1835, the Hemp Methodist Church, located three miles east of Mt. Nebo, near the present Oak Park, was merged with the Mt. Nebo congregation. Of its history, nothing else is known. In 1837, John Alexander donated seven and one-half acres of land for the purpose, and a new building was erected on the present grounds. Very little is known about this building as it was used for only twenty-one years, or until the present building was erected in 1858.

During most of its history, Mt. Nebo Church has been one of the appointments on the Williamsport Circuit, or of the various other circuits which at different times have included Williamsport.

Sometime during the early part of this century, another Methodist congregation, Foster's Chapel, located about two miles southwest of Sawdust Valley, and for some years an appointment on the Williamsport Circuit, was dissolved and its membership merged with Mt. Nebo and Williamsport Churches. No other records of this church are known.

For most of its history, Mt. Nebo has been a strong, active rural congregation, with very capable spiritual leadership among its own members. It has produced a number of devout local preachers—J. H. Russell, G. W. Russell, W. R. McKennon, J. W. Jones, and perhaps some others. Three men from this community—R. G. Linn, Henry S. McBride, and Hugh H. Parsons—became members of the Tennessee Conference.

In 1931, an annex of four church school rooms was built across the back of the church, and in 1947, the entire church was refinished and a furnace installed. It is now in good condition. For some years, the interest and membership has been steadily growing, until today there are 156 members, which is probably about as large an enrollment as it has ever had.

G. E. GODWIN, *Pastor*

WAYNESBORO

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The Methodist Church was the first church established in Wayne County. This church was built in 1820 on Green River, just east of Waynesboro at what is now Old Town Cemetery.

About 1893, a new building was erected on a lot deeded to the trustees of Methodist Episcopal Church, South, by William Turman and recorded in 1895.

In 1893, a deed was recorded showing that E. D. McGlamery had deeded to the trustees of Methodist Episcopal Church a lot on Jordon Branch upon which to build a church.

These churches united in 1939 and worshiped in the building of the Southern Methodist Church until December 19, 1954, when the first service was held in the new church, which now has a membership of 315.

DON CHANDLER, *Pastor*

MOUNT PLEASANT

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The first Methodist church in the vicinity of Mount Pleasant was built by Moses Smith, who settled the Poplar Grove Farm a few miles south of present Mount Pleasant and built a Methodist church known as "Smith's Chapel" prior to 1820. He deeded land for a cemetery and in 1832 deeded additional land for a camp ground.

A Mr. Peters settled on land just east of Smith and a camp meeting was held there in 1825 led by Rev. James McFerrin, Presiding Elder. Rev. John Nixon and sons settled just north of the Moses Smith property. It seems that Rev. Nixon's daughters married two Methodist preachers named Nixon and Arnold and they, together with Edward English, ministered to Shiloh Church which flourished about 1825-45.

A class was organized in Mount Pleasant and a frame church erected in the 1830's on the same site where the present Methodist church stands. The first official record of a minister's appointment to the Mount Pleasant Church was in 1833. Conference was held in Pulaski and Rev. Gilbert D. Taylor was made Presiding Elder and James Tarrant and Garrett M. Martin were co-ministers for Mount Pleasant Circuit. The following year Mount Pleasant was moved from the Richland to the Florence, Alabama, District with F. A. Owen, Presiding Elder, and R. Ellis and W. D. F. Sawrie sent to the Mount Pleasant Church.

From 1834 to 1840 a new Presiding Elder and a new preacher were appointed each year. John Akin, John Daniel, John Vigor, Resperson (or Kespersion), Tidwell, and others served the Mount Pleasant Circuit during this time. In the 1840's came Walter Williams, Mack Gray, and J. G. Ray.

Little is known of the church during the following twenty years. Land joining the church lot was purchased in 1857 and a frame parsonage built. This residence was replaced by a two-story brick build-

ing in 1910, which is the present parsonage. Regular church services were not held during the Civil War years as happened in many of the churches throughout the Conference.

Pastors from 1870 to 1886 were W. N. Wilkes, 1872; S. P. Whitten, 1876; S. M. Cherry, 1880; John S. Jordan, 1882; James Tinnon, 1885; and J. W. Collier, 1886. The frame church was destroyed by fire and a brick church built in that year. The fire which destroyed the church supposedly resulted from too much kindling being used by some ardent Methodist lady substituting for a janitor. It is said that during the fire, Rev. Collier stood on a goods box in the church yard and made up the \$8,000 to rebuild the church. The brick church erected at this time was known for its very steep and high pointed roof.

Rev. Collier was followed by W. R. Seay in 1888; W. B. Lowrey, 1890; W. H. Doss, 1892; A. C. Couey, 1894; L. R. Amis, 1898; with Rev. Doss returning in 1900. He was followed by T. R. Curtis in 1904; E. M. Harrell, 1908; W. L. Jackson, 1910; and J. A. Molloy, 1912. Under the leadership of Rev. Molloy, a new Sunday school building was erected and in 1916 the church was torn down and a larger brick church erected. The church was rushed to completion in time to host the Annual Conference which is the only one ever held in Mount Pleasant. The outstanding feature of the church is its stained-glass memorial windows.

H. M. Jarvis was appointed minister in 1916 and was followed by W. E. Doss, 1920; B. F. Isom, 1922; E. M. Steel, 1924; E. R. McCord, 1926; W. T. Haggard, 1930; H. B. Reams, 1932; A. J. Davis, 1936; James Cox, 1939; J. Dallas Bass, 1941; and J. O. Ensor, 1945. J. D. Robins was pastor from 1947 to 1949 during which time an additional story was added to the education building and various other improvements made to this building. Other pastors who have served the church include A. Faxon Small, 1949, and the present pastor, R. L. Benton, who was appointed in 1952. Membership at present is 530. The church has been redecorated, this year, sanctuary air conditioned, new heating system installed.

NOTE: It is possible that the present church is the fourth building on the present site to be used by the church. While no official records can be found, it is possible that the first church was replaced by another church in the 1860's. J. P. Warnock, quoting from the diary of Mr. B. R. Harris, tells of the dedication of the new Methodist church on December 11, 1870, by Dr. A. L. P. Green, and a balance of \$1,200 raised to pay for the church. If this information is correct, it was this church which burned in 1886.

R. L. BENTON, *Pastor*

PLEASANT GROVE

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

The Pleasant Grove Methodist Church was organized in 1821. Its first location was about three miles south of Cross Plains in Robertson County. It remained here for a few years; then it was moved about three miles northwest to what is now the Owens Chapel community. It remained here in its log structure until 1833 under the name of Jernigan's Chapel.

Its charter members consisted of three families—namely, Parsons, Edwards, and Jernigans.

In 1833 it was moved to its present location, housed in a log structure until 1857 when the present large frame building was erected, with a large back room which was used many years for public school. They are making a youth recreation center out of the large back room.

Coming to the new location in 1833 there were added to the membership roll other families: Susan Gilbert, Lucy Cunningham, Nicholas Covington, and Stephen Cole.

Pioneer circuit riders were Black, Browder, Williams, Simon Peters, and Evans. The church has 166 members at the present time.

R. E. STEVENSON, *Pastor*

ZION

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

Zion Methodist Church is located in Wilson County, seven miles east of Lebanon, Tennessee. The acre of land upon which the church now stands was bought in 1823. The deed states that John Hearn sold to William Mahalland and Ebenezer Hearn, trustees, one acre of land for the sum of \$10 for Zion Methodist Church. Very likely the first building erected upon this lot soon after 1823 was a log house. After many years it was replaced by the present building which is in good condition. Some of the leading members of the church at that period were the Turners, Andrews, Hearn. Several descendants of these families are members of Zion today.

Mrs. Lucy Hearn Rinard, who was eighty-five years old December 22, 1954, and a member of Zion, made the following statements relative to her ancestors: "My great-grandfather was Rev. Wilson Hearn. My grandfather Jimmie Hearn was the father of twelve children—nine boys and three girls. . . . I am the only living one of that host of children."

MARY ANDREWS, *Historian*

P.S.: Ebenezer Hearn was one of the original trustees in 1823. Mrs. Hearn Renard said: "My great-grandfather was the Rev. Wilson Hearn." Evidently her great-grand-

father was Ebenezer Hearn who was a Methodist preacher and was admitted on trial into the Tennessee Conference in 1816. He was living in the Zion community in 1823, was instrumental in the organization of Zion and was one of the first trustees.—Editor.

SINGLETON

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The Pisgah Methodist Church must have been organized in the later part of 1820 or the early part of 1821. The church register shows the first members were Nimrod Burrow and Wiley B. Snell who united on profession of faith in July, 1821. Asa W. Elkins united with the church on profession of faith in 1824. The new church grew rapidly. In 1832 Samuel Pollock and Jesse Rogers made a deed for one acre and 54 square poles for \$250. The following were the trustees: William S. Carpenter, James Long, Enoch Floyd, Mitchel Hall, and Wiley B. Snell. A log building was erected on the lot which soon was too small and it was enlarged.

The old log building was used until the early years of the twentieth century. It was supplanted by a new building in the community of Singleton, two miles away, and the name was changed to the Singleton Methodist Church. One acre of land was given by Mrs. Bettie Cobb at the new location. A. Reynolds rode horseback to collect money for the erection of the new church. Only one man refused to make a donation for the erection of the new church. He requested a donation at a blacksmith shop. John Kelly replied: "I do not have any money, but I will shoe your horse for a year." The pledge was accepted and he shod his horse all-round twice during the year. The church register gives the names in order of forty-three pastors who served the church since 1821. Rev. Leslie Jacobs is the present pastor.

LESTER W. BRIDGES, *Historian*

CENTERVILLE

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

"The Methodist Society at Centerville was organized soon after the settlement of the country and has continued in existence ever since."

The foregoing paragraph appears in the oldest record book of the Centerville Methodist Church. Since the land on which Centerville was built was deeded to the town for its construction in 1823, it can be assumed that the Centerville Methodists stem from that date. There is no record of a Centerville Methodist Church building, however, until 1852 and it is believed that until that date the society met in homes or in the Centerville Academy.

The first membership roll in existence of the Centerville Methodist Society is dated 1830 and lists twenty names. They are Rev. James Erwin, Rev. Samuel Whitson, Rev. Robert Johnson, Thomas Webb, John White, Nancy White, Eli White, Sallie White, Sallie Hornbeak, William Bird, Elizabeth Whitson, Margaret Phillips, W. C. Strayhorn, William Craig, Anna Craig, Frances McClanahan, Thomas Wright, and Elva Strayhorn.

The lot for the first church was purchased October 19, 1851, and the two-story building, one of the first brick buildings in Centerville, was completed in 1852. The old deed records as follows:

"Robert C. Huddleston to John F. Stanfill, trustee on the part of the Methodist Episcopal Church South of Centerville; Horatio Clagett, trustee on the part of Polk Lodge no. 183 of Ancient York Masons located in Centerville; and Pleasant Walker, trustee on the part of Centerville division no. 50, Sons of Temperance for the sum of \$100. . . ."

The first floor of this building was used by the Centerville Methodist Church and the second floor was used as a lodge hall. This century-old building is now owned solely by the local Masonic Lodge and is still in good condition.

When the church became a station of the Tennessee Conference in 1883, there were forty-five names on the membership roll. By the beginning of the twentieth century the membership had jumped to approximately 200.

The need for Sunday school rooms and a larger chapel brought about the construction of the present Centerville Methodist Church. The deed for the land on which the new church was built is dated March 22, 1921, and the building was completed in 1922. Also included in the deed was a residence on the lot which was used as a parsonage until the new parsonage was constructed on the same site in 1950.

Trustees of the church to whom the 1921 deed was registered were J. B. Walker, Sr., R. B. Barnwell, Nixon Huddleston, T. M. Huddleston, and J. A. Bates.

Several ministers went out from the Centerville Methodist Church in pioneer days with no record kept of their names, but the only ones in this generation have been Percy R. Russell, now serving Trinity Station, Columbia District, and David T. Morrison, now serving Hyde Park Church, St. Joseph, Missouri, Missouri Conference.

At the present time there are 320 names on the membership roll of the Centerville Methodist Church.

E. B. WILLIS, *Pastor*

LAWRENCEBURG

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The Methodist Church in Lawrenceburg had its beginning in 1824, 131 years ago. From 1824 to 1847 the appointment was known as "Lawrence." From 1848 to 1850, inclusive, Lawrence lost its identity as an appointment. Lawrenceburg appeared as an appointment in 1851 and disappeared until 1856. In 1857 and 1858 the appointment read Lawrenceburg and Henryville. From 1859 through 1875 the appointment was "Lawrenceburg," except in 1863 and 1864 no conferences were held on account of the Civil War. In 1876 the appointment read: "Lawrenceburg and Pleasant Grove." In 1877 it was "Lawrenceburg and Factory"; 1878, "Lawrenceburg Station"; 1879, "Lawrenceburg and Marcella." From 1880 to the present time the appointment has been "Lawrenceburg Station."

On June 11, 1838, Rev. Robert Andrews appointed trustees for the Methodist church in Lawrenceburg and had the following registered in the Register's Office of Lawrence County: "I, Robert L. Andrews, Presiding Elder of the Florence District, do hereby constitute and appoint Joseph Miller, Noah Parker, John McDonald, Thomas J. Matthews, and William McKnight, Trustees for the Methodist Episcopal church in Lawrenceburg. Robert Andrews."

In the same deed book appears the following deed to the present church property: "Deed from William C. Edmonton to Joseph Miller, Noah Parker, John McDonald, Thos J. Matthews, and William McKnight, Trustees for the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the town of Lawrenceburg and their successors in office." The deed describes the lot as follows: "The southeast corner of lot No. 50 in Waterloo Street, and beginning at the southeast corner of said lot on said street, and running west with said street, for five poles, north six poles, and bounded on the north by the north half of said lot No. 50 and on the east by lot No. 49." Fifty dollars was paid for the lot.

Fifty years ago, 1905, the church reported 137 members, value of property \$1,500 (church), parsonage \$1,000, Sunday school enrollment 112, paid the Presiding Elder \$65.00 and the pastor \$450.00. Total raised for all purposes, including salaries, amounted to \$1,058.87. The same items in the 1954 conference report were as follows: Total full members 826, value of property \$60,000 (church), parsonage \$15,000, Sunday school enrollment 447, paid the District Superintendent \$241.00 and the pastor \$5,000. Total raised for all purposes, including salaries, amounted to \$18,617. What will the report be in the year 2010?

Bishop Roy H. Short is Bishop of the Nashville Area, Rev. H. H.

Austin is Superintendent of the Mount Pleasant District, Rev. W. H. Mansfield is in his fifth year as pastor.

MRS. G. K. VAUGHAN, *Historian*

BETHEL

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Bethel Church, situated near the headwaters of Leipers Creek in Maury County and on the Santa Fe Circuit, was doubtless one of the preaching appointments added to the old Duck River Circuit in the early twenties. The Santa Fe Circuit, made from taking churches from the Duck River Circuit, was established in 1847. Bethel, placed on the Santa Fe Circuit in 1847, has continued so placed to the present day with the exception of a period from 1901 to 1932 when it appeared on the Theta Circuit. From the beginning until 1883 when separate buildings were erected, the church and school used the meetinghouse. A new log church building was erected in 1848. The deed to the land was made August 11, 1848, and begins as follows: "I, Robert Church, have this day bargained and sold and do hereby transfer and convey to William Church, Thomas Church, Robert Sewell and Benjamin J. Wrenn, trustees of the new Bethel meeting house forever for the consideration that the following ground is for the entire use of a Methodist meeting house. . . ."

The present frame building was erected in 1883. At that time the lot was enlarged by the addition of more than an acre of land on the north. The deed was made October 8, 1883, by Robert Sewell and wife Fannie. The trustees named therein were T. W. Church, John M. Hay, and John Church. The building committee was composed of E. N. Woolard, J. M. Hay, and Rev. R. W. Seay, the pastor. Two of the carpenters were John Watson and Andrew Harbison. The pews still in use were made from hand-dressed lumber sawed at Robert Church's mill from logs donated by John McKnight.

Most of the land-owning families now residing in the Bethel community, members and supporters of Bethel today, are descendants of one family, Thomas and Betsy Collet Church. Others have joined their ranks to make Bethel the moral and spiritual center of this valley section. Some old family names dating back to Bethel's early days, some still much in evidence, are Fox, Sewell, Wakefield, Priest, Church, Gaskill, McKnight, and Jarratt. The late W. V. Jarratt, long-time honored member of the Tennessee Conference, went from Bethel into the ministry. The present official board is composed of the following persons: The pastor, Rev. Joseph G. Stump, U. E. Fox, Clifton V. Priest, I. L. Sewell, Sr., I. L. Sewell, Jr., Leslie Wake-

field, Skelley Walters, Stanley Wilson, Mrs. Clifton Priest, Miss Lucile Wakefield, Mrs. I. L. Sewell, Jr., Mrs. Wayne Sewell, and Ernest Wakefield, church school superintendent.

W. M. Cook, *Historian*

SPARTA

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Rev. John Kelly, who was admitted on trial into the Tennessee Conference in 1821, ordained deacon 1823, ordained elder 1825, was appointed pastor of a charge that included Sparta in 1825. The first church building evidently was a log house typical of church buildings of that early pioneer period. The congregation used the County Academy building for many years which was open for other denominations also. The substantial sanctuary of the present structure was erected of brick about 1852. During the Civil War the Union soldiers tore up the floor and used the lumber to make stables for their horses. The building was first remodeled during the pastorate of Rev. J. E. Woodward, 1908-12. Plans are being made (1955) for the erection of a new educational unit to cost approximately \$100,000.00. The Hinners organ was installed in August 1915. It was in three parts—Great Organ, Pedal Organ, and Swell Organ—with a total of 413 pipes, the display pipes finished with French gold leaf bronze. Mr. R. P. Officer, a wealthy citizen and a great Methodist, was the chief layman interested in the organ. Mrs. S. E. Gaines was the first pipe organist and remained in this position for about thirty-five years.

The following served as pastors of this historic church: John Kelly, 1825; Jesse Horde, 1834; S. S. Yarbrough, 1842; John Kelly, 1847; A. F. Lawrence, 1851; J. J. Ellis, 1852; — Hazelett, 1853; F. S. Petway, 1855; — Corbin, 1856; William Large, 1857; S. H. Brown, 1858; J. A. James, 1860; A. W. Smith, 1860; B. M. Stephens, 1866; P. C. Gaston, 1869; R. W. Bellamy, 1870; W. N. Moore, 1871; R. T. Rowland, 1873; W. A. Leath, 1874; J. H. Nichols, 1875; S. L. Fain, 1876; J. F. Corbin, 1878; C. M. Hensley, 1880; E. K. Denton, 1881; S. L. Fain, 1883; G. P. Jackson, 1885; J. F. Beasley, 1886; J. C. Roberts, 1887; E. C. Marks, 1888; W. B. Patty, 1889; W. H. Gilbert, 1890; J. O. Blanton, 1891; W. H. Klyce, 1892; S. L. Fain, 1894; J. W. Smith, 1895; W. A. Lusby, 1896; O. P. Hill, 1897; E. W. Brown, 1898; H. B. McNeal, 1902; G. L. Beale, 1903; H. L. Munger, 1905; J. E. Woodward, 1908; F. E. Alford, 1912; Cullen T. Carter, 1914; C. R. Wade, 1916; G. R. Allen, 1917; J. O. Ensor, 1918; L. W. Stewart, 1920; R. J. Craig, 1921; J. D. Hewgley, 1924; A. F. Small,

1925; W. E. Couser, 1928; W. H. Saxon, 1930; J. B. Spurlock, 1931; B. F. Isom, 1934; J. Dallas Bass, 1937; W. W. Pullen, 1939; S. D. Organ, 1940; O. P. Gentry, 1944; Don E. Dulany, 1948; Robert S. Lee, 1950; P. M. Dixon, 1953.

The church has an enrollment of about 600 and over 300 enrolled in the Sunday school, and is promoting a full program through the W.S.C.S., the Methodist Youth Fellowship, and other organizations. Rev. P. M. Dixon is our present pastor.

S. M. ARNOLD,
C. T. MABERRY,
Historians

LIBERTY

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

It is not known just when the first Methodist church at Liberty was organized, but it was sometime near 1800.

Because they had no building the people worshiped in homes until about 1825 when the first church was built in Liberty (which was then in Smith County) on one-fourth acre of land that had been deeded jointly to the Methodists and Presbyterians by Adam Dale, Liberty's first settler.

The church was about 30x40 feet and had two stories. The second floor had a large opening over the pulpit in order that the slave members, who occupied that floor, might see and hear the minister.

During the Civil War negro soldiers camped in this building and when they moved out it was taken over by the hogs and cows until it could be repaired. It was then used for church and school purposes.

The first pastor after the Civil War was John H. Nichols, who served the Short Mountain Circuit, which was composed of fourteen churches, one of which was Liberty.

About 1874 the present building was erected. It has been repaired from time to time but today it retains the same lines and much of the original material but has had three Sunday school rooms added.

On October 17, 1939, the Presbyterians transferred their rights of the property to the trustees of the Methodist church.

The present membership is 116.

There are records of some sixty-four pastors who have served this church since 1830. Reverend Joe Elmore is the present pastor and Reverend E. U. Robinson is the Superintendent of the Cumberland District.

MRS. G. C. EVANS, *Liberty, Tennessee*

WINCHESTER

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Methodism in Winchester had its beginning about the time other Methodist churches were being rooted in the southern part of Tennessee. The name of the church first appeared in the Minutes of Conferences (General Minutes) of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1828. Therefore, it was organized a few years earlier than this date, probably not later than 1825, 130 years ago. The first house of worship must have been of log construction. Typical of this type of church building for that early period is Strother's Meeting House which was erected in 1800 and was relocated in 1930 on Scarritt College campus, Nashville, and is now a museum.

The second church building was erected in 1834 of brick construction. It was located near the famous Mary Sharpe College on the present site of the Texaco station on the Cowan highway. Its location near the college may explain why so many outstanding pastors were assigned to this charge during that period.

The third church building was occupied in 1852, eight years before the War Between the States. It stood on the corner of Ninth Avenue and South Jefferson Street. It is today occupied by the Greyhound bus station. It was a three-story brick building. The ground floor was used for an opera house, the second story used for church purposes, and the third story was used for lodge meetings. Provision for operatic exercises, church activities, and secret orders continued for forty-one years.

The fourth church building, which is the present sanctuary, was erected in 1893 during the pastorate of Rev. J. M. Jordan. The building cost \$10,040 which was a considerable sum for that day. The country was just coming out of a great depression. Two years after the new church edifice was occupied, the Tennessee Annual Conference was entertained by the Winchester Methodist Church. Bishop A. W. Wilson presided over the Conference. It was the first and last time the church had the privilege of entertaining an Annual Conference. Governor Peter Turner, a distinguished citizen of Winchester who resided at "Hundred Oaks," delivered the welcome address. This was the first time the Tennessee Conference heard the voice of Mr. Joe Ramsey, "Little Blind Joe," of Viola, who represented the Epworth League Board. Rev. Felix Coleman, who was also blind and a member of the Tennessee Conference, came from the Winchester Methodist Church.

In 1950, the new educational unit was completed at a cost of \$75,000. It is commodious and modern in every detail, thoroughly departmentalized, with several additional classrooms, beautiful chap-

el, well-equipped fellowship hall, and kitchen. While this unit was being erected, the sanctuary was enlarged and beautified and given new pews and pulpit furniture.

Since 1950, Rev. William H. Moss, who was a chaplain in the Second World War, overseas service, and is State Commander of the American Legion, is the popular pastor. The church has a membership of 910 and a Sunday school enrollment of 507. The church is loyal to Methodist tradition and supports a full program of activities.

W. E. SUGG, *Church Secretary*

DODSON CHAPEL

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Prior to the year 1830 there is supposed to have been in existence a Methodist church in the Hermitage area which was named Wright's Chapel. This church was located on Old Lebanon Dirt Road, about two miles south of the Hermitage, home of Andrew Jackson, and was beside the Wright cemetery. Further information concerning this is not available.

Sometime in that period another building was erected on what was then Stewart's Ferry Pike (now Dodson Chapel Road) which ran from the Hermitage (or near by) to the ferry which crossed Stone's River, four miles from Donelson, Tennessee. This church was named Stoner's Lick Methodist Church, the name coming from a nearby salt lick which was regularly visited by cattle raised in the nearby areas. This church was attended by Andrew Jackson prior to his building the little Presbyterian chapel for his wife Rachel. It was the voting center for the community and it was here that ex-President Jackson cast his last vote in a national election, that being the time when his successor, James K. Polk, was elected. The year was 1843 or 1844.

The first Methodist church to receive the name Dodson Chapel was erected about the year 1858. The land was given by Mr. Billy Dodson and others of the Dodson family who resided in that area. It was located a few hundred yards north of Stoner's Lick Church. Some forty or forty-five years later this church was moved across the road, a new frame building being erected (the others had been log structures).

The present structure, a beautiful brick building, was erected in the year 1906. A solid brick structure, it has been destroyed by fire twice but the original walls (17 inches thick) were not seriously damaged and are the walls of the present structure. Lightning was the cause of one fire, an overheated furnace the other. Nineteen

hundred sixteen and 1935 were the years. Dow Ensor and James R. Cox were pastors at the time. The Rev. Alvis J. Davis enjoyed the longest pastoral term to date (1928-33) and under his leadership the present beautiful furniture was placed in the building. It was saved completely at the time of the last fire. Rev. Dow Ensor served the charge twice, four and two years respectively. The present educational unit, costing \$6,000, was added in 1953.

From 1878 Dodson Chapel was a part of the Hermitage Circuit, composed at different times of Andrew Price Memorial (Donelson), Pleasant Grove, Old Union, Union, Pennington Bend, Berryville, and Dodson Chapel. In 1927 Andrew Price Memorial was made a station, five of the other churches forming the circuit. In 1946 Dodson Chapel and Pennington Bend went together as a double station. In 1955 they separated and became full-time stations. In recent years the circuit has been used as a student appointment until, in 1954, the present pastor, a full-time Conference member, Herbert S. McConnell, was appointed. Just prior to their division, the 125th birthday of Pennington Bend (1829) and Dodson Chapel (1830 as Wright's Chapel) was celebrated.

Prof. W. C. Dodson, long-time school superintendent for Davidson County, was a prominent leader in the church's history. Others were Marvin Dodson and H. M. Earheart. The present leaders are E. C. Binkley, board chairman; Paul D. Goodwin, lay leader; Stanley Earheart, church school superintendent; Mrs. William Akin (daughter of the W. C. Dodsons), W.S.C.S. president; and Harry Northcutt, M.Y.F. president. The congregation has always been small but the percentage of contributors large. Of 113 on roll, ninety active, there are more than eighty contributing members to a large budget of \$4,578 for 1955-56.

HERBERT S. McCONNELL, *Pastor*

MARVIN'S CHAPEL

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Marvin's Chapel Methodist Church is located in Hubbard's Cove, five miles southwest of Viola, Tennessee. This church was organized about 1825. The first house was made of logs and erected on land donated by John Wooten. The first frame house was built after the Civil War. The name was changed to Marvin's Chapel in honor of Bishop E. E. Marvin about 1885.

ROBERT THORNTON, JR., *Pastor*

FAYETTEVILLE

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The Fayetteville Methodist Church was originally organized about the year 1825. Services were held at first in the homes of the members. One of the earliest places of meeting was in the little brick shop which was formerly occupied by Sam Ramsey as a saddle and harness shop. This shop was owned by A. J. Toon and was just north of the K. P. building. Here services were held for several years.

The first building for a Methodist church was built sometime in the 1840's by B. M. Steel, a contractor who built many houses in Fayetteville. This building was of brick and was built on what was then called High Street about one block north of the square, now North Main. This building was the only church building left standing after the cyclone of 1851. It stood until the cyclone of 1890, at which time it was completely destroyed, and a short while thereafter the present auditorium was erected. From that day the Methodist church has been an active organization with a present membership of 830.

About thirty years ago it became necessary to erect an educational plant to meet the need of the congregation. This addition to the church consisted of a two-story brick building with adequate space, at that time, for the educational needs. In 1946 the present sanctuary was beautified with a complete redecorating job, the installation of leaded stained-glass windows, and permastoning of the outside. This was done at a cost of \$15,000.00. In 1953 the Moores' property, joining the church property on the west, was purchased for \$40,000.00. This property is being used to house the Nursery, Kindergarten, Intermediate and Youth Departments of our church school.

Some of the former ministers include: P. A. Sowell, A. P. McFerrin, J. W. Cherry, Tom C. Ragsdale, George A. Morgan, W. Weakley, W. E. Doss, E. L. Gregory, H. W. Seay, John F. Beasley, John M. Jordon, R. J. Craig, E. M. Harrell, J. J. Ransom, H. S. McBride, W. J. Collier, W. T. Haggard, R. H. Hudgens, E. M. Steel, D. E. Hinkle, T. W. Mayhew, W. D. Comperry, J. E. Wolfe.

The following are members of the 1955 and 1956 official board:

Trustees—S. N. Brown, Robert Dryden, A. E. Simms, H. N. Rees, R. C. Carrell, Hurley Towry, H. S. Ashby, James F. Becker, George Raucher.

Stewards—Harry Clark, C. S. Caughran, Herman Dale, J. C. Frady, J. L. Jennings, L. B. Marks, Dr. J. M. McWilliams, James Rees, Joe Douglas Strong, W. C. Dale, W. F. Drake, Joe Ed. Graham, Jack Johnson, James Moore, W. H. Rochester, W. E. Rhea, E. C. Templeton, Paul Towry, Ralph Askins, William R. Carter, Joe Cun-

ningham, William P. Hatcher, Dr. Ben Marshall, James McKinney, S. I. Pinkston, A. E. Simms, Jr., L. J. Wagster, Roy Cline, Arthur Farrar, W. F. Franklin, Jr., Ray Marrs, Carter Mitchell, T. G. Melson, Hal Rees, Walter Tanner, Tom Towry, Lewis Carter, Walter Harris, H. F. Holtz, James Malone, Jimmy Mann, Harold Patrick, Jack D. Plyant, J. T. Roach, Don Stuart.

Honorary Stewards—Dr. C. L. Goodrich, A. H. Hatcher, F. B. Kelso, W. O. Loving, A. E. Simms.

Church school superintendent, Robert Simms; president, W.S.C.S., Mrs. Mary White Hobbs; president, Wesleyan Service Guild, Miss Louise Maddox; president, Youth Fellowship, Sandra Holtz; lay leader, H. S. Ashby.

ELBERT E. WALKUP, *Pastor*

OLD SHORT MOUNTAIN

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Short Mountain has been a Methodist church since early 1800. In the Minutes of Conferences printed in New York, the "Mountain" was an appointment in 1825. We have reason to believe that this was Short Mountain. The present location of the church is within a half mile of the original which was the place of the "Old Camp Meeting Grounds." Several descendants of the original families are members today of the old church—Jones, Denby, Burger, Melton, Ware, Martin, Hawkins, Reams. Rev. Absalom H. Reams entered the ministry from this church and was admitted on trial into the Tennessee Conference in 1843. His son, Rev. H. B. Reams, also entered the ministry from this church and united with the Tennessee Conference in 1875. A sister of H. B. Reams, Miss Mary Reams, over eighty years old, is an active member of the church today. Also Charles Foster, George Cope, and John Jones entered the ministry from this historic church.

Before the Civil War the church membership was well over 100. A large percent of the citizens of the community were members of the Methodist church. In spite of the great shift in population which has practically annihilated many isolated country churches, the membership is today over sixty-five, who are very enthusiastic for their church.

Many interesting things have happened in connection with this old church. The following is well remembered by the older members: Rev. John H. Nichols, a pastor of the Civil War period, was warned by the leader of a "bushwhacker band" "not to preach anymore at Short Mountain or pay with his life." At the regular appointment for service Brother Nichols was in the pulpit preaching.

The leader came in with his gun in hand and found a seat. He was completely ignored by the preacher. Near the conclusion of the sermon the ladies and others began shouting and praising God. He left the service without incident and greatly humiliated.

When Methodism has spent its force, Short Mountain Methodist Church will be among the last to surrender.

W. E. SCHAEERER, *Pastor*

ELM STREET

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

McKendree Methodist Church became a station in 1832. Prior to this historic year, about 1825, the church sponsored a Mission on Front Street. The building was erected of logs and probably stood east of the Hay Market.

College Hill Methodist Church was organized in 1835 and the building was a handsome brick located on Franklin Street between Third and Fourth Avenues, South. It was dedicated by Bishop James O. Andrew in October 1843. At the dedicatory service the name was changed to "Andrew Charge" and it absorbed the Mission of McKendree on Front Street only a few blocks away. (Several years later the Andrew church building was sold to the Negroes and it became Clark Memorial.)

Elysian Grove Methodist Church was organized in 1848 and it was located far out in South Nashville in the Lebanon District. In a few years the congregation desired to be in the city and was re-located on Mulberry Street and it became Mulberry Street Methodist Church in 1859.

In 1860, at the beginning of the Civil War, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church started a building on the corner of Elm and Summer Streets—Fifth Avenue, South. On account of the war, the small congregation was able to finish only the first or basement story of the building.

A movement was inaugurated about the close of the Civil War to unite Mulberry Street, a few blocks south of Elm Street, and Andrew, a few blocks north of Elm Street. A trade was proposed with the Cumberland Presbyterian congregation at Elm and Summer Streets to take over Mulberry Street Methodist Church and the united congregations occupy the unfinished Presbyterian property. The trades were consummated and the two united Methodist congregations became Elm Street Methodist Church in 1867.

Dr. R. A. Young, who was one of the leading Methodist preachers of his day, was assigned to Elm Street in 1870. The membership was

292. It was during his pastorate of two years that the sanctuary was finished. The membership was 430. The church was dedicated in July 1871 by Bishop D. S. Doggett.

The pipe organ was purchased at a cost of \$2,000 during the pastorate of Dr. J. P. McFerrin, about 1884. It was built by Mr. A. B. Fledgmaker of Erie, Pennsylvania. The beautiful cupola was destroyed by fire in December, 1925.



Elm Street

Elm Street Methodist Church has always maintained the missionary spirit and practice at home and abroad. Miss Kate Roberts, who was one of its honored members, went as a missionary to China in 1887. Rev. Cullen T. Carter, when a student in the Theological Department of Vanderbilt University, was recommended by the Quarterly Conference in March 1905 for license to preach. Dr. and Mrs. D. L. Mumpower and their five-month-old daughter, Mary Elizabeth, went from this congregation as missionaries to Africa in 1913. Miss Lillian Kelley, of this congregation, is at the present time a deaconess at Bethlehem Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

At one time Elm Street had a membership of 1,200, and for a long time ranked second in strength in the Tennessee Annual Confer-

ence. Only McKendree was stronger. Gradually conditions developed in South Nashville over which the church had no control which made it impossible to maintain its high rating in prestige and membership. Other denominations in the community suffered greater loss. The steady drift in population to the east and to the west in Nashville and the removal of Peabody College to Hillsboro Road near Vanderbilt University were the chief factors that caused the decline. It is a great victory for the church to have a membership today of nearly 500 which regularly meets its financial obligations and maintains a fine spirit.

Elm Street has had thirty-two pastors, two having served two terms and three having served three terms.

O. H. VANLANDINGHAM, *Pastor*

NEW PROSPECT

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

Many years before 1868, church services were conducted in the old Prospect schoolhouse. This was a one-room log building located on Beeler Creek a short distance northwest of the present New Prospect Methodist Church. It is not known just when this first church was started but it is known that Mr. William Wiley Bishop, who lived from 1835 to 1930, went to church there when he was a boy and the men had to carry their rifles to church for protection against the Indians.

In 1886 the Methodist congregation built a church building on the site where the present church now stands. This new building was of frame construction and was called "New Prospect," and was used for church services from then on.

In those days the Lawrenceburg Circuit was composed of three churches—Lawrenceburg, New Prospect, and Choates Creek. The pastors lived in the parsonage at Lawrenceburg and traveled to fill their appointments as best they could. Some rode horseback, some walked, and some even rode in oxcart. (In 1891 Ray Bloom and three sisters, Lena, Ruth, and Mary, from Lawrenceburg visited our church and made the trip in an oxcart.)

In 1898 Rev. B. W. Blessing organized the first Epworth League at New Prospect. During these years there were great revival meetings lasting two weeks. There were large numbers of converts and these converts were placed on six months' probation before being received into full membership. This was customary until 1900 or later. Fuller's Chapel Church was now on the charge.

In 1906 building was started on the present church building, which

is located on the same grounds as the old one. Sawmills in the community turned out the heavy framing and rough lumber but the dressed lumber was purchased at Waynesboro, Tennessee. The church was nicely furnished, painted outside, papered inside. The floor, wainscoting, ceiling, chancel and other woodwork were varnished. It was furnished with new pews, pulpit, large chairs, attractive coal oil light fixtures, and a reed organ. It was dedicated in 1907. (Mr. D. O. Landow and Miss Cora Landow were the sextons for twenty-seven years.)

In 1920 the Lawrenceburg Church decided to become a station, leaving three churches on our charge. In 1922 Center Point Church was added, making four churches. From 1922 to 1923 the pastor, Rev. W. F. Bedford, lived in a rented parsonage in Lawrenceburg, but moved then to the new parsonage at New Prospect. During the pastorate of Rev. Gueary Reed, 1949-51, a beautiful, modern, brick veneer parsonage was built just in front of the site of the old one.

The exact membership of the New Prospect Church at organization is not known, but the membership has steadily grown until it is now a healthy 235. The charge now contains five churches: Choates Creek, Freeman's Chapel, Pleasant Grove, Wesley's Chapel, and New Prospect.

Methodist ministers have always labored for the love of God and his people more than for money. Here are some typical yearly salaries paid by this entire charge: 1921, \$518; 1925, \$932; 1930, \$860; 1935, \$510; 1940, \$750; 1947, \$1,712; 1951, \$2,400.

JOHN C. HIGHT, *Pastor*

CLIFTON (Cheatham County)

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

What is now Clifton Methodist Church, in Cheatham County, was already in existence when Edwin Clifton deeded the lot on which the building stood to Mark Chambliss, Joseph Stroud, Robert F. Williams, Phillip Duke, Thomas Bell, William Clifton, and William Stewart, who were the trustees of the church, "for the love he has for the church of Christ." The deed, dated July 13, 1825, is older than Cheatham County and is recorded in Montgomery County.

About 1888 there was a desire for a new building. By 1890 this was completed about one-half mile southwest of the original site. The Rev. J. M. Oakley was pastor. This action was not pleasing to some of the members, so they withdrew and organized the Bethel

Free-will Baptist Church. A revival was held that summer, and shouting could be heard for a mile; twenty-two members were added that summer of 1890. Some pastors since 1890 have been W. V. Jarrett, J. T. Blackwood, J. W. Fairies, A. E. Stella, and T. J. Thornton.

Around 1910 a new Methodist church at Neptune drew many of the members from Clifton because it was nearer their homes. In October of 1897 there were 242 members on the roll at Clifton; the present roll has 130 members. There is now a Sunday school and an M.Y.F., and preaching is held twice a month.

In 1954 the building was remodeled: Sunday school rooms were added, a new heating system was installed, and numerous repairs were made.

Clifton Methodist Church has helped several student ministers.

WENDELL A. MEGGS, *Pastor*

LEEVILLE

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

The Leeville Methodist Church, one of the four churches that make up the Lebanon Circuit in the Cumberland District, was at the time of organization known as the Pleasant Grove Methodist Episcopal Church.

A group of Christian people of Methodist belief met at the home of Rev. John and Levenia Kelly in the year 1820 and organized the first Sunday school (then called Methodist Society) under a huge red oak tree. This tree stood approximately one-half mile south of the present Leeville Church. Later the first Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, had its beginning on this location by Levenia Campbell Kelly.

In September 1826 Rev. John and Levenia Kelly and John Buchanan gave land for the purpose of a place for divine worship. The following trustees were named: Joshua Kelly (father of Rev. John Kelly), David Campbell (brother of Levenia Kelly), and John W. Peyton.

The original building was made of brick and was in continuous use until around 1904. Then it was torn down and a new church built on the same location. Many bricks from the first building were used in constructing the present church. The Bible stand in our church today was made from the red oak tree under which the first Sunday school was organized.

Our church has had the mission spirit from the beginning, and many young men and women have gone out into foreign and home

mission fields. Rev. Levi Fisher, Rev. Frazier F. Cochrane, Sr., Dr. John Boswell, Rev. W. M. Lantrip, and Rev. Paul F. Lanius have gone from our church into the ministry.

In 1951 three new Sunday school rooms were built and in 1954 a new heating system was installed. Our church today is active in all religious work and is striving to make our community a better place in which to live.

MRS. HAROLD REEVES,
MRS. ENNIS LASATER,
Committee

P.S.: Dr. Walter R. Lambuth (Bishop, 1910), son of Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Lambuth, missionaries in China 1852, married the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. D. C. Kelley. Dr. D. C. Kelley, a son of Rev. and Mrs. John Kelley, was a missionary to China in 1854. See pages 139, 166-67 in *History of the Tennessee Conference*.—Editor.

MOUNT GILEAD

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Mount Gilead Methodist Church was organized in 1826, near Sparta, Tennessee. According to the church records and the *History of the Tennessee Conference*, Rev. Wesley Deskin was the first pastor. After serving for four years, he died in 1830 and was buried in Warren County.

The oldest church roll shows the following among the members during the days of the first church: Henderson Keathley, Rebecca Jenkins Smith, Mary Jane Lowrey, all of whom united with the church in 1830. Martha Smith Arnold and John B. Herd were added in 1846. Hampton Hudgens united with the church in 1863, and A. O. Jett in 1870. Some of the earliest leaders were Christopher Davis, Montgomery Carter, and Pleasant Waller.

The first building, approximately 18x20 feet in size, was constructed of logs. This building was located in the northeast corner of the cemetery and was used as a worship center for about fifty-two years. The house was built with a large fireplace and chimney at one end and a door in the opposite end. The pews were made of split logs with peg legs. The second church building, a frame structure, was erected in 1878. All material and most of the labor were donated. This building was used for about eighty-two years. The second church was replaced in 1950 with a modern brick building. The ground was cleared for the new church November 9, 1949, and the work of construction was begun immediately. The opening service was held June 18, 1950.

The present membership is about 125. The *History of the Tennessee Conference* states that so far as it is known, a larger

number of young men entered the Christian ministry from this church than from any other church in America. Thirty-three have gone out to spread the gospel. They are: S. F. Burkhead, Willie Carter, A. G. Copeland, D. C. Crook, William Dingis, Willie Dodson, Marshall Gist, Edd Graham, Logan Hensley, E. F. Hudgens, R. H. Hudgens, H. M. Jarvis, R. L. Jarvis, I. W. Keathley, W. R. Keathley, S. M. Keathley, J. C. Keathley, Andrew Keathley, H. P. Keathley, Abe Keathley, W. B. Lowrey, J. A. Molloy, N. B. S. Owings, Thomas Smart, Hayes Smith, David Smith, C. B. Smith, W. P. Swindell, Waymon Swindell, Thomas Sweat, Joseph Webster, M. P. Woods, and Charley Hensley.

Only five of the thirty-three are now living and all are superannuated except C. B. Smith who is pastor of the First Methodist Church of McMinnville, Tennessee. The other four are M. P. Woods, S. M. Keathley, H. P. Keathley, and R. H. Hudgens.

For many years in the early history of the church, camp meetings were held on the church grounds during the summer months. Families of the congregation would bring food, fuel, and bedding and would camp for several days. Sunrise prayer services were held each day in separate sections for the men and women.

The large cemetery surrounding the second church was begun before the War Between the States, and several soldiers were buried there.

MRS. W. I. JARVIS, *Historian*

UNION

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

In 1826, a Mr. Evans gave five acres of land to the trustees of the Lutheran Church upon which a house of worship was erected. It is not known when the first congregation was organized but it is reasonable to believe that it was about 1825 or earlier. During and after the War Between the States, the house was used for both a place of worship and school purposes. The present structure was erected sometime during the latter half of the nineteenth century. At one time the congregation included a very large percent of the citizens of the community, among whom were the Calls, Waggoners, Prices, Mooreheads, Wisemans, Tipps, Evans, Mitchells, Wards, and Masseys. The Rev. L. R. Massey served the church for many years as pastor.

On account of the decline of the Lutheran Church in this area, Union became a Methodist church in 1917. Rev. W. V. Jarrett, who was Presiding Elder of the Fayetteville District, negotiated the transfer. At the Annual Conference in Gallatin October 10-15, that

fall, Billy Floyd Tipps, who was a member of Union, was admitted on trial into the Tennessee Conference. Henry Thurston Tipps, a brother of Billy Floyd Tipps, also from Union, was admitted on trial into the Tennessee Conference at Clarksville in 1923.

Union belongs to the Lynchburg Circuit in the Murfreesboro District. Its membership is around 100 and it continues to render a great service to its community. Rev. J. C. Sandusky is pastor.

H. T. TIPPS, *Superintendent*
Clarksville District

BETHEL

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Aboard a ship, bound for America from England, in 1784, was a seventeen-year-old lad, coming from London to live in America. He was Ebenezer McGowan, who was destined to have a part in Methodism in Middle Tennessee.

He settled first in Virginia, coming to Tennessee in 1816. He bought a home seven miles northwest of Murfreesboro. According to McFerrin's *History of Methodism in Tennessee*, MacGowan worshiped at Rucker's, four miles north of Murfreesboro, for some years. His home became a preaching place. In 1827 he gave a beautiful grove near his home and a small, comfortable church, called Bethel, was built of logs. He gave the cedar logs and helped build the church.

He was first pastor, having been ordained deacon in Virginia, March 10, 1798, by Bishop Francis Asbury, and ordained elder by Bishop Joshua Soule, November 28, 1824, at Columbia, Tennessee. Photostats of these certificates have been placed in the auditorium of the present church.

In his will, probated May 1850, he devised to trustees, John Lane, Joseph Lindsey, John Jones, (Capt.) William Smith, James E. Stockard, and their successors in office, according to the discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church (South), "that part of my land including the site whereon Bethel meeting house stands."

During the Civil War the building was stripped and desecrated by the Yankees. However, it stood the test of time and was used as a schoolhouse for many years. It has only recently been torn away, having been sold and the money applied toward the purchase of a Hammond organ, as a memorial to those who have served the church through the ages.

The first Sunday school we have record of was organized about 1884, with Dr. W. J. Sanders superintendent. His future wife, Fannie Adams, then a girl of twelve, was the first known organist.

Regular services have been held at Bethel since its founding, except for a brief period during the Civil War. A new church was erected in 1887, on the same lot, and is the building used now. Many improvements have been made in the last few years.

Until now there have been sixty-nine pastors, including our present pastor, Reverend Louis Johnson. Descendants of the founder have served on the official board since its organization. There are 128 members. Our organist is a junior girl, Patsy Jacobs, of whom we are very proud.

No preachers have gone out from Bethel, but many members have dedicated their lives to various phases of Christian service in different parts of the world. Charlie Soong, of China, attended Bethel several months. Louise Thompson, a member of one of Bethel's finest families, is the wife of Rev. Harold Coke, an outstanding young minister in the Tennessee Conference. She is children's director in Columbia District.

Bethel has a rich heritage, which should be an incentive to carry forward the banner of Christ for generations to come.

R. M. SANDERS

Murfreesboro, Tennessee
R.F.D. 4

SALEM

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

The site of present Salem Church, which was once called "the old camp meeting grounds," was deeded in 1828 to seven trustees by a Mr. Ellis.

The first building was of brick, larger than the present one, with a balcony in the rear for the slaves of the families who attended. There were two entrances, one to the balcony for the slaves and the other leading directly into the auditorium.

The present building, built in 1907, has many of the bricks of the original building in it. It is located about one-half mile west of Highway 109, two miles north of Gallatin.

RUSSELL E. KINDSAY, *Pastor*

MADISON STREET

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The exact date of the organization of the Methodist church in the Clarksville area is unknown, though early records show that the Methodists were established there as early as 1787. According to tradition, they were worshiping, at the beginning of the nineteenth

century, in a temporary building between Cumberland River and the town square. However, it was not until 1829 that Clarksville appears as a station in the records of the "Minutes of Conferences."

Credit for the growth of Methodism in Clarksville should go, in large measure, to Henry Beaumont, a devout member of the Virginia Society of Methodists, who brought his family to Clarksville in 1828. Establishing residence, he and his wife, with other zealous Christians, began at once to work for the Methodist cause in Clarksville. The first brick church in Clarksville, mentioned in the next paragraph, was one of the results of their efforts. Beaumont gave unsparingly of his time and means, so much in fact, and with such outstanding results, that he has been called the "Father of Methodism" in Clarksville.

The first Methodist church, mentioned above, was located on the corner of Fourth and Main Streets. It is standing today (1955), though it is now used as a residence. It was built in 1831 and used by the Methodists as a place of worship until 1841, when it could no longer accommodate the membership. Then it was sold to the Cumberland Presbyterians and the Methodists built their second brick church on the corner of Franklin and Fifth Streets. However, by 1882, the congregation had outgrown this building also, and it, too, was purchased by the Cumberland Presbyterians and is still used by them.

Again the Methodists had to set about building a larger church. A lot was purchased on the corner of Hiter and Madison Streets, and on September 26, 1882, the cornerstone of the present Madison Street Methodist Church was laid. The building was completed in 1886 and the Reverend W. R. Peebles was assigned as the first minister to this church. By 1895 the membership had reached an even 600.

The architectural style of the church is pure Gothic. The windows are of beautiful stained glass, as is the large, electrically lighted rose window over the front entrance. The pews, choir loft, altar, and other woodwork are of walnut, carved in some instances, in the acanthus leaf design. The original brass, prism-trimmed, gas fixtures, wired for electricity, are still in use in the sanctuary. The Jardine organ, installed in 1893, continues to peal forth its mellow notes. The bell, placed in the church on Franklin and Fifth Streets in 1859, was moved to the Madison Street building when it was completed. The members like to recall that it is the same bell which called their forefathers to worship nearly a century ago.

The parsonage was erected in 1890 on a lot adjoining the church, at a cost of \$5,000. It has, during the years, been much improved and modernized, and is still used as the home of the ministers.

In 1916 it was necessary to have larger facilities for the church school. At this time, an additional building was erected directly behind the present sanctuary, at a cost of \$40,000. This addition contains a chapel with memorial pews, classrooms, a kitchen and dining room, storage space, and other conveniences.

By 1954 the congregation had grown to more than 1,500 members. Time had come for further expansion. A building program was started which would extend the present facilities by 10,000 square feet immediately. This was to give room for the entire children and youth divisions. On the first floor of this building there will be a fellowship hall, dining room, and recreation center. The long-range plan in the new building program calls for a chapel facing Madison Street and an activities building, which will complete the present plant and form a U-shaped structure with a sunken garden between the chapel and the main auditorium. In order to complete this expansion, it was necessary to purchase the property next to the parsonage, giving a large frontage on Madison Street.

Since 1829 Madison Street Methodist Church in Clarksville has had fifty-seven ministers and two associate ministers. During the years, a number of young people have entered full-time Christian service from this church.

J. DALLAS BASS, *Pastor*

GALLATIN

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

The First Methodist Church was organized in Gallatin in a one-room log cabin church house in 1829 with 170 members. In 1843 the first tract of the present church property was purchased and a building erected. During the War Between the States the church was used as a hospital for many months. For a time it served as a place of worship for the neighboring Presbyterian congregation who were without the use of their building.

In 1874 the present church building was built. In 1916 a large educational building was erected. In 1954 another educational building was completed, this one containing some 14,000 square feet of floor space and being of modern concrete and masonry fireproof construction.

Membership of the church stands today at 1,127. Two hundred eighty-three of these have been added to church rolls during the past three years by the present pastor, the Rev. Shugart Martin.

The names of pioneer members of this church frequent the history of early and present-day Middle Tennessee. Some of them were: Blakemore, House, Walton, King, Woodson, Estes, Rodemer,

Foster, Green, Boddie, Holder, Blackmore, Whitesides, Barth, Clay, Sindle, Harris, Malone. Twelve beautiful memorial windows in the sanctuary commemorate the lives of many of these. Ten preachers serving Methodism have come from this church. Two of our present young members, Billy Empson and Bill Balch, have been recommended by the Quarterly Conference for license to preach. Earl Stilz, retired veteran missionary to Africa, went into the ministry from our church.

The official board, for many years known as the board of stewards, has taken an active part in the growth of our church. Its rolls number the leaders of the church from its beginning down to the present time. Robert N. Durham is present chairman.

Sunday school was organized in 1831 with Charles B. King as first superintendent, a position he held for twenty years. James W. Blackmore succeeded King and served thirty years. Other superintendents, in order of their service, were the Rev. Charles Hawkins, H. L. McGlothlin, J. Woodall Murrey, Sr., G. Frank Durham, D. W. Moody, and N. H. Baulch, presently serving. Church school enrollment in 1954 reached a total of 606. Approximately fifty classrooms are required for this growing part of the church.

In 1888 the Rev. J. B. Wright organized the young people of the church into "the Epworth League." Mr. Thomas King was first president. Miss Tennie Woodson, Miss Vena Stuart, H. L. McGlothlin, and Joe Gilmore were among the early leaders in League work. In 1930 Mrs. Europe Albright organized the Youth Department with active help from Tom Brown, Luther Creasy, Mrs. W. P. Puryear, Jr., and Miss Augusta Lassiter. More recent leaders have been Mrs. James Elder, Mrs. Wilda Jane Blackmore, and Mrs. Adele Sindle. This Department became the Methodist Youth Fellowship in 1940. It now has 120 members and sponsors the Sunday evening church service furnishing its own choir and music. The M.Y.F. Council includes Anne Edmonds, president; Faye Sindle, secretary; and Bill Balch, district president.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service, as it is now known, was a pioneer organization founded locally in 1878. The first president was Mrs. James Blackmore; Mrs. Charles Whiteside was secretary. The original organization was concerned only with foreign missions. A home and parsonage society was organized twelve years later. A short while afterward the two organizations were combined into the Woman's Missionary Society. The society was traditionally one of the leaders in the Tennessee Conference which held its last annual Missionary Conference at Gallatin in 1940. Following this meeting the name and organization were changed to the Woman's Society of Christian Service of which all members of the Missionary

Society became charter members. The W.S.C.S. and the Wesleyan Service Guild now have 230 members. Meeting all conference and local obligations annually, the W.S.C.S. last year pledged and paid \$2,930.44. Mrs. A. C. Mason is president at this time.

MRS. E. W. ALBRIGHT, WALTER DURHAM, *Historians*

PROSPECT

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

A great revival of religion was conducted in 1829 at Bethel which is located in the southern part of Giles County near the Alabama state line. Several converts in this revival, in apostolic fashion, visited surrounding communities in the interest of Christ and his church. As a result of these visits the following Methodist churches were organized: Mt. Carmel (when it was moved from Tackets branch to Stella, its name was changed to Stella), Friendship (very likely it was located about four miles south of Bethel on the state line), Kedron (while this Methodist church is not mentioned in the ancient record of the 1829 revival, very likely it came out of it), and Prospect. All these Methodist churches are active today except Friendship.

The Prospect Methodist Church has a most interesting history. In 1830, evidently soon after the organization of the church, the following laymen established a camp ground a half mile southwest of the village: Roger Simpson, W. R. Brown, Thomas Abernathy, James Abernathy, Thomas Battle, Robert Harris, Samuel Flanagan, James Ford, Thomas W. Westmoreland, and others. The Prospect camp ground was the place where camp meetings were annually conducted for thirty years. Soon after the establishment of the famous camp ground a large church building was erected. It became a prominent appointment in the Tennessee Conference up to the period of the Civil War. During the war the Federal soldiers destroyed the church building and also the camp ground. (About 1900 a claim was filed with the Federal government by the officials of the Prospect church for the destruction of their property which was settled by the government paying \$900.00.)

Following the close of the Civil War, the Prospect church erected a large two-story frame building on top of a hill near the center of the town. For many years the Masonic Lodge occupied the second story. The building is standing today in good condition and is used for a residence and a funeral establishment.

Rev. George E. Eubank, who was converted in the great Sam

Jones revival in Nashville in 1882, became a Methodist preacher. He was assigned to Prospect and Pleasant Hill in 1906. He had a striking personality, and was a fine preacher and a good organizer. Under his inspiration and leadership the congregation was led into a building enterprise in 1907. B. G. Mason, L. B. Lester, and L. C. Blanton composed the building committee. L. C. Blanton supervised construction. The new brick building was more modern and more centrally located. In due course of time it was dedicated free of debt by Dr. T. A. Kerley who was the Presiding Elder. "The Church" was his subject. One person present recalls this statement in the sermon: "The church was not built upon Peter, or upon Peter's faith, but the substance of his faith." In 1950 a basement was built under this building and other improvements made.

Rev. W. C. Folks who was assigned in 1952 is the present pastor.

ED C. WHITE, *Chairman*

C. E. REED,

A. D. CARTER, *Committee*

PENNINGTON BEND

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

About the year 1785 a man named McSpadden built a log house on the east bank of Cumberland River across from Hayesboro. The bend of the river was first named for him. Sometime between 1840 and 1860 it was changed.

In the year 1800 Mr. Graves Pennington came from Virginia and settled in McSpadden Bend. Other families were Williamson (the ferry here is named for them), Graves, and Ewen. Most of these were from Fairfax County, Virginia.

In the year 1829 a young minister by the name of Thomas Elisha Carr came from Hayesboro to preach in the homes of these families. As a result, a log cabin was erected beside the river and named Carr's Chapel Methodist Church. Carr was an effective young man and the church grew rapidly.

The families of David McGavock and John W. Pennington, with others, were responsible for moving the chapel in 1860 farther up the hill on what was then Bluff Road (now nonexistent). During the ensuing Civil War this was occupied and burned (as were the records also) by Union soldiers.

Services were conducted in a cabin on Mrs. David McGavock's farm, a retired preacher, Brother Hanna, leading these. A short time later, Mrs. Susan Graves gave a plot of ground where the present

Pennington Bend and McGavock roads join. There a new building was erected and the name changed to Pennington Bend Methodist Church. Mr. McGavock and Mr. Pennington furnished the lumber. This was also used as one of the first Davidson County schools. Jesse J. Ellis was pastor at the time.

A third building was erected a few hundred yards up Pennington Bend road (the present location) in the year 1890, with Sterling M. Cherry, pastor, in charge.

Under the leadership of Alvis J. Davis, pastor in 1928, church school rooms were added. In the year 1948 the building was moved to the top of the hill and a basement added. Henry H. Horton was pastor in charge. The latest complete redecoration of the sanctuary and establishment of a fellowship hall was completed in the summer of 1954, under the leadership of the present pastor, Herbert S. McConnell.

Methodism in the Bend has enjoyed an inspiring period of service. Membership of the church has varied from 25 to 60, at present being 48. Services have been conducted regularly since 1829. Until 1927 the Hermitage Circuit included Donelson (Andrew Price Memorial), Dodson Chapel (Hermitage), and Pleasant Grove (Central Pike). Andrew Price Memorial that year became a station and Old Union and Berryville (1933) were added to the circuit. Then, in 1946, Pennington Bend assumed a "double station" relationship with Dodson Chapel.

Interesting facts regarding the history include: Miss Sandra Weakley, present organist, is a member of the sixth generation of Weakleys to belong to the church. Her grandfather, Mr. Olin M. Weakley, served twenty-five years as chairman of the official board and seventeen years as church school superintendent.

Mr. Herman E. Norfleet was elected chairman in 1954; Mrs. Catherine Dickens was elected church school superintendent in 1946. (She "grew up" in the church.)

The 125th anniversary was celebrated December 5, 1954, at a special fellowship dinner and quarterly conference, Rev. W. C. Westenberger, Nashville District Superintendent, in charge. Despite its small membership the church has operated regularly on a "pay-as-you-go" status and expects rapid growth now in the new subdivision which is developing around it. Rev. Richard Shriver was appointed pastor 1955.

HERBERT S. McCONNELL, *Pastor*

Margaret Florence Capps, born June 30, 1889, was the first baby baptized in the third building. She is now Mrs. J. T. Kennedy, near Pulaski, Tenn. Susie Capps and George Light were the first to be married in the third building December 24, 1896. Ben F. Capps, born November 20, 1837, was the first funeral in the third building, May 4, 1904.—Editor.

MOUNT GILEAD (Overton County)

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Mount Gilead Church in Overton County probably is the oldest Methodist church in this county. The nearest tradition reveals that possibly in the 1830's there was an organized church here. This church resulted after a division among the Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians who had a union church at what is now known as Old Union near here. The first house was log, located west of present cemetery. It stood during the Civil War days and was replaced by a new log house in 1884. This house served as schoolhouse also. The present building which was erected in 1924 with Fate Brown as carpenter is located adjoining the cemetery on the east.

One has gone into the ministry: Oscar Nolen.

ERNEST CASHDOLLAR, *Pastor*

GODWIN-CHAPPELL

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The earliest members of the Methodist church in this section of Maury County worshiped in a log house four miles north of Columbia toward Santa Fe. It was the only place of worship for miles around. About 1830, Mr. Dickey Chappell gave a lot near the old log house and assisted in organizing a church. It was named Chappell Methodist Church in honor of Mr. Chappell. Rev. Robert G. Irvin who united with the Tennessee Conference in 1840 became the first pastor. He was a son-in-law of Mr. Dickey Chappell. Rev. James G. Voorhies, a local Methodist preacher and also a son-in-law of Mr. Chappell, often preached and assisted in revival meetings in the church.

In the course of time a new building was needed. The old house was sold and the new house was erected on the Santa Fe Pike at a place more central in the community. Rev. B. S. Haggard was the pastor and died before the new building was completed. The first sermon was delivered in the new church December 27, 1891. Within two months and one day after the first sermon was delivered the Sunday school was organized February 28, 1892.

While the new church building and furnishings cost more than \$1,800 which was a large sum for a small country church for that day, there was an indebtedness. Col. A. S. Godwin paid the debt and installed new pews. The building being free of debt and well furnished, Dr. E. E. Hoss, editor of the *Christian Advocate*, Nashville, who later became a bishop of The Methodist Church, delivered

the dedicatory sermon August 9, 1896. In the dedicatory service the church was named "Godwin-Chappell Methodist Church" in honor of Mr. Dickey Chappell and Col. A. S. Godwin for reasons stated above.

The following are members of the present official board: *Trustees*—Mrs. Winnie Sellers, Frank Stone, Mrs. Ora Harris. *Stewards*—E. C. Harris, Frank Stone, Charley McMeens, Mrs. Mary E. Potts, Mrs. Lucile C. Stone. *Superintendent of the Sunday school*—Charley McMeens. *Church Treasurer*—Mrs. Lucile C. Stone. *Communion Steward*—Mrs. Ora Harris.

Chairmen: Commission on Membership and Evangelism—Mrs. Ora Harris, Commission on Education—Mrs. Charlotte Adams, Commission on Missions—Mrs. Elaine Church, Commission on Finance—Frank Stone.

We have thirty active members and twenty-one on the inactive list. Rev. Joseph Stump is our pastor.

MRS. LUCILE COTTON STONE, *Historian*

UNION

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Union Methodist Church—present location one and one-half miles southeast of Ruskin Cave, ten miles northwest of Dickson, Tennessee, Clarksville District. This church was organized in 1830. No record of charter members or number available. In 1867 membership had grown to eighty-five, present membership thirty-six. Several ministers have been licensed to preach from this church. From its altar, doctors, teachers, ministers, good laymen and business men and women have gone out to take their places as Christians and leaders in various fields and have been better because Union Methodist Church touched their lives. Many boys and girls in the past 125 years have had the greatest asset possible, a Christian home in which to live and grow to be men and women who have blessed and not cursed society where they have lived.

LITA M. BISHOP, *Historian*

GOOD HOPE

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

A \$10,000 brick church now stands on ground that was once used as the site for camp meetings in the early nineteenth century. A log church was built, probably in the year 1830. This first edifice was placed on three cedar stumps and one stone.

As the congregation increased a shed-room was added. When a new frame structure was built in 1876, this old shed was used for a saddle shelter.

The foundation for the present building was laid on November 21, 1949, the tearing down of the old building began on January 10, 1950. On June 28, 1953, the new building with a spacious auditorium and five church school rooms was dedicated with the District Superintendent, Rev. Harvey W. Seay, in charge of the ceremony.

HENRY DAVIS, *Pastor*

FARRIS CHAPEL

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Farris Chapel was organized near Winchester on Highway 60 near the 1830's. This was a one-room brick building. Mr. S. M. Woodard and Mr. William Shasteen were two of the original trustees. The building burned about the 1880's and in 1882 the congregation moved into the Farris Chapel community to a schoolhouse near the Green Cemetery. There they worshiped about two years and the building burned, so then in 1884 the congregation moved to their present location and worshiped in an old-fashioned brush arbor, which they named New Friendship. This they used two years until they could build the church. This they named after the original Farris Chapel in 1886.

The trustees of the present church at the time of its dedication were Mr. F. M. Denson, J. D. Easlick, J. T. Farris, and W. L. Farris.

In 1940 there was an addition in which two classrooms were added. Kenneth Wilkerson was licensed to preach from Farris Chapel in 1951.

This is now our Farris Chapel Methodist Church on the Huntland Charge with 130 total members and an average of 50 in Sunday school.

D. R. POOLE, *Pastor*

MOUNT ZION

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Mount Zion Methodist Church is located three miles northeast of Viola, Tennessee. This church was organized before 1835 and a log meetinghouse was built on an old camp meeting site. Before this worshipers met in the home of Jonathan Biles. The second meetinghouse was frame and the present frame building was constructed in 1899.

ROBERT THORNTON, JR., *Pastor*

PETERSBURG

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The Petersburg Methodist Church, with Medium and Mt. Zion Churches in the Columbia District, has its roots deep in the early days of the eighteenth century.

The date of organization is not known but it must have been prior to 1830 when there is a record of Mrs. Griffie Leonard (Nancy Porter) being received by vows. The next date entry, 1837, Jo. J. S. Gill received by vows.

The site of this early church is unknown but in 1840 the first church building in the village of Petersburg was erected. This was a joint effort of the M. E. and Cumberland Presbyterian congregations and a Lodge. This two-story building, located on High Street, north of the old cemetery, had first floor dedicated to the worship of God; the second floor was a Lodge home.

With true Christian hospitality the sanctuary was available, when not needed by these two congregations, for other denominations needing a place of worship.

In 1896 a frame building was erected on the present site. The Rev. John F. Beasley was pastor. His only son, R. H. Beasley, is now a steward in this church. Rev. Beasley began and completed this building program with Rev. T. J. Duncan, Presiding Elder.

The Petersburg Church has, from time to time, been placed in various districts—Fayetteville, Shelbyville, Pulaski, Columbia—and has been grouped with numerous churches. In 1873, it was one of a circuit of six, later nine—Medium, Ebenezer, Wesley Chapel, Flower Chapel, Prospect, New Hope, Farmington, Mt. Zion, and Petersburg. The pastor's salary for this circuit was \$500.00 and parsonage, plus the products shared by his members.

Early records show a thriving Sunday school in 1875 with a library of forty books. This was the only Sunday school in the village until about 1890.

In 1896 the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was organized by Miss McKesson of Clarksville with twenty members. Their first project was the support of a girl in school in China at \$40.00 per annum for three years. A missionary society was recorded many years earlier. The society has continued active service, the writer having been a member continuously since 1904.

In 1916, because of regrouping, for the first time we had no parsonage. Rev. C. M. Epps, pastor, working with his stewards, raised the needed contributions for the parsonage in two days. A commodious six-room house with attic and basement was built on part of the

church property. The heavy furniture was also provided and has been maintained and supplemented as needed.

In 1920, we became a station with Rev. Burch Tucker as pastor. From 1919 to 1950, a signal service of the church was ministering to the needs of the students of Morgan School for Boys.

In 1927, the building was remodeled, the exterior was brick veneered, the basement developed into a modern educational unit and a pipe organ was installed in the sanctuary, a gift of Mrs. Joe Blacknell, a member.

William Thomas Gill is the only son of the church to enter the ministry. The son of Jo. J. S. Gill and Angelina Moore Gill, he joined the conference in 1872 and was a tireless circuit rider in Marshall County during his early ministry, organizing many churches. Gill's Chapel today bears his name and he records 407 souls converted on this circuit.

Family names recorded in early church history are: Gill, Moore, Hart, and Fishback, who have continued successively to be on official board, and today are represented by the fourth and fifth generations.

On two occasions the church ministered to the community as a whole, by giving the use of its buildings for school purposes, when the community school buildings burned.

Bishop Galloway was the first visiting Bishop.

Today the membership is 170 from 50 families. Besides three worship services per month, we have a good Sunday school, W.S.C.S., W.S.G., and Youth Fellowship, all doing splendid work.

Rev. W. W. Johnston is pastor of the church.

MRS. KATHERINE GILLESPIE JOPLIN, *Author*

STELLA

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Stella was originally Mt. Carmel located on Tackets Branch in the southern part of Giles County about one mile from Shoal Creek. It grew out of a revival of religion conducted at Bethel in 1829. When compared with national events that was a long time ago. It was Andrew Jackson's first year in the White House. Tennessee had been in the Union only thirty-two years, and Giles had been a county for only twenty years. A group of men from the Bethel revival were responsible for the organization of several churches within an area of five or six miles from Bethel. Mt. Carmel was one of the number. The church had a good start from the beginning on account of the high type of citizens who lived up and down Shoal Creek and adjoining communities. At the upper end of the creek lived Mr. and

Mrs. David Shores, with Mr. and Mrs. Riley Smith as close neighbors. Down the creek lived Mr. and Mrs. Larkin Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. Will Davis were close neighbors. Between these families lived the Harwells, Childs, and other substantial citizens. A small number of descendants remain and comparatively few have moved in to take their places in the church.

In 1922 it was thought advisable to move Mt. Carmel from Tackets Branch to Stella which had become the community center. With the removal of the church building its name was changed to Stella Methodist Church. However, the age of the congregation dates back to 1829, 126 years ago.

WILBUR C. FOLKS, *Pastor*

KEDRON

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Kedron is located on Jenkins Creek three and one-half miles north of Bethel in the southern part of Giles County. It cannot be definitely proved that the organization of the church came out of the Bethel revival of religion in 1829. However, several facts indicate this origin. It is close to Bethel and in the general area of other churches that received their inspiration and help from this revival.

The membership has never been very large or very wealthy but very loyal and very dependable. Several strong businessmen in Pulaski today are descendants of influential families in the early membership of Kedron. Three young men entered the Methodist ministry from Kedron: Dawson Phelps who was admitted into the Tennessee Conference in 1833; Martin R. Tucker, admitted in 1860; Joshua C. Phelps, son of Dawson, admitted in 1862. All three are supposed to be buried in the Kedron cemetery.

WILBUR C. FOLKS, *Pastor*

GLENN'S CHAPEL

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

About 1830, on land donated by Bird Hurt, the New Hope Methodist Episcopal Church structure was erected. This church was fourteen miles south of Franklin on the Lewisburg road at Hurt's Cross-roads. The church was in the southeast corner of the intersection. This building served as a place of worship until 1886.

In 1886, R. C. Glenn donated a two-acre lot near Glenn's store about one mile north of the old New Hope Methodist church. A

new building was erected and named in honor of the donor of the land. Early pastors were Revs. Owens, Laws, Blackwood, Bradford, and Johnson. Early family names found on the roll include Warren, Hurt, Glenn, Hampton, Tonith, and others. Rev. Fenton Warren is a native son of Glenn's Chapel. Even though our church is small we have a good Sunday school, M.Y.F., and are in the process of organizing a W.S.C.S. We have sixty-six members at the present time. Family names of resident members include Warren, Kincaid, Amis, Slaughter, Neal, Chunn, Stephens, Fleming, Childress, Crowe, Derryberry, Reed, and others.

WILLIAM T. BUCKNER, *Pastor*

SPRINGFIELD

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Methodism came to Nashville in 1787 when a new circuit was created in American Methodism. It was called the Cumberland Circuit and it embraced Middle Tennessee and portions of Kentucky. There was no guarantee that there were any Methodists in this territory but Benjamin Ogden, only twenty-three years old and already a veteran of the American Revolution, was assigned to the circuit.

The mother of the Red River Circuit is the Mount Zion Methodist Church, which was organized in the house of Samuel Crockett in 1798, back when Robertson County was part of the wilderness of the West. At the time of the organization of the Mount Zion society, Methodism was thirty-two years old.

Springfield was an appointment in the Red River Circuit for fifty years.

Goodspeed wrote that "the church at Springfield was organized in the thirties with Daniel P. Braden, Thomas J. Ryan, John S. Hutchison, George C. Conrad, Henry Hart, Thomas Martin and Isaac England as trustees. Among the other members were Joachim Green, Marshall Jamison, Dr. Archibald Thomas, Mrs. John E. Garner and Mrs. R. K. Hicks. The original lot was No. 57 of the original plan of the town of Springfield, purchased from Dr. Archibald Thomas for \$50. In 1837 a frame house was erected." The frame church building faced on Spring Street (Seventh Avenue).

The first church building was replaced during the time that the Rev. Jerre W. Cullom was first assigned here. He came here in 1855. This church also faced Spring Street and the auditorium was built high off the ground. In the basement of the church was conducted a village school—not the Female Institute "which was incorporated in Feb. 2, 1848, by the General Assembly. The institute opened its fall term that year in a frame residence that also faced Spring street

and was adjacent to the Methodist Church on the West and part of the present church building is located on ground on which stood the school building." Above information gained from Mr. Love's "Springfield First 100 Years."

The second frame building was destroyed by fire in 1882 and was replaced by a handsome brick building on the same site with the entrance on Oak Street. Henry Hart Kirk and his brother Bud Kirk were the contractors and architects. H. H. Kirk laid brick and gave his time and labor as his gift to the church. The membership counted 170. In 1890 brick wings were added to the main building.

The first deed reads, "In trust that they shall erect and build, or cause to be erected and built thereon, a house or place of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal church in the United States of America." This deed is recorded in Book Z, page 144 in the register's office at the courthouse.

Deed book 27, page 38, shows the acquisition of more land. "Dr. A. G. White to T. M. Henry and other trustees, October 26, 1886. For \$800.00 cash in hand A. G. White to T. M. Henry, G. W. Menesa, W. T. Peck, C. J. Davis, J. A. England, L. T. Cobbs, W. R. Sadler, J. M. Judd and C. A. Bell as trustees of M.E. church south, the following parcel fronting 100 feet on Oak St., running back 88½ feet west, 293 feet on Walnut St., and lies between lot 3 on the south and lot 7 on the north and known as lot 5 in W. B. Low's addition to Springfield, being same conveyed to me by the said W. B. Low by deed dated Sept. 20, 1879 to A. J. White to trustees Oct. 26, 1886."

The first conference held here in 1907 found the church building too small. The meetings were held at the Tabernacle.

In October, 1914, the Rev. Ausmus organized a men's Bible class with fifteen members and he was the teacher. "His class (as reported in a pamphlet on class history in 1916) is the outgrowth and result of the desire on the part of a few, at first, for some form of organized activity in the social work of the church, which was made to breathe and take on real life under the wise and sympathetic leadership of David M. Ausmus. From a small beginning the class has steadily grown in its influence as well as number until it has touched directly every man in Springfield who is not actively connected with some other Sunday school of the town." In 1916 the membership was 275. There is a picture of this class taken in front of the brick building in the possession of the present church. The large class met in a tent that was erected at the side of the building.

Deed Book 65, page 137, "Addie Davis Bell to the Board of Trustees of the Springfield Methodist church, South, April 21, 1915 for \$2,000 lot on which to build a parsonage sold to Dr. F. M. Woodard, T. R. Anderson, O. S. Dowlen, J. S. Brown, E. B. Long, T. M. Wood-

ard, T. L. Polk, J. E. Peck and H. T. Stratton, beginning west side of Oak St., corner of present Methodist church lot, runs due west with church lot 94 feet thence north $81\frac{3}{4}$ feet to a point and east 94 feet to Oak St."

From the pastor's report "the general state of the church, on the Fourth Quarterly conference of the year 1917, is in a working frame of mind, based upon, as far as the pastor is able to discern, the unity of spirit."

"Doubtless a hurried review of the past would add clearness to the progress that the church has made. Nearly three years ago, when the work of the present pastorage began there were 275 active members; now there is a membership of 484. Then there was no parsonage; now there is a convenient beautiful one—perhaps as good, if not the best, in the whole conference. Then we worshiped in the little brick church; now we are completing its successor, being the fourth church erected on the same spot since 1835. The new church is imposing in beauty and modern in arrangements. It stands as the finest expression of loyalty, devotion, and sacrifice on part of the Methodists of Springfield that anyone can imagine. And too, the businesslike way in which it has been done will always remain as an inspiration to him who is the chief Shepherd of all. No word but a commendable praise is fitting to these efforts and labors. Gentlemen, you have wrought well and paid well. Your church is free of debt . . ."

Respectfully,

DAVID M. AUSMUS

The cornerstone for the new structure was laid in 1916. The history to date was written and placed in the cornerstone by the Rev. S. D. Ogburn. (All previous records were supposedly destroyed in 1882 fire.)

The bronze plaque in the vestibule reads: Erected to the Glory of God, 1916. The following members of the official board served on the building committee: C. E. Bell, chairman; Jordon S. Brown, Frank Bell, W. E. Ryan, Ed. S. Eckles, H. T. Stratton, David M. Ausmus, D.D., pastor. Architects were Thomas W. Gardner and Edward E. Daugherty of Nashville. J. B. Regen was the general contractor.

The fine Skinner organ was installed in 1920 when the Rev. R. H. Hudgins was pastor. The lovely memorial windows are in memory of the Rev. S. D. Ogburn, March 1917, George W. Davis, 1825-98; Elizabeth Cannell Davis, 1833-1909; Zelichs Hutchison Fiser, Nov. 26, 1829-Oct. 15, 1894; Daniel B. Braden and Emily L. Braden, and John R. and Adeline Batts Long.

PASTORS

Red River Circuit, Cumberland District: 1836-37—J. S. David McYell, 1837-38—W. E. Ragland, F. T. Payne, 1838-39—J. Sherrill, J. M. Nolan, 1839-40—G. W. Dye, W. Wilks, 1840-41—M. Rassey, J. M. Nolan.

Red River Circuit, Clarksville District: 1841-42—J. S. Davis, L. D. Harwell, 1842-43—G. B. Dye, Joll Whitten, 1843-44—George Sneed, Superintendent.

Methodist Episcopal Church, South: 1844-45—John McCurdy, 1845-47—Jesse Willis, 1847-48—T. N. Langford, 1848-49—Milton Rainey, J. M. Adams, 1849-50—J. M. Adams, 1850-51—Joe Willis, 1851-52—Levi R. Dennis, 1852-53—Abram Coke. (Springfield Station—75 whites and 15 colored members.)

1853-54—Berry M. Stephens, S. D. Ogburn, 1854-56—Jeremiah Cullum, 1856-57—W. C. Haislip, 1857-58—John A. Ellis, 1858-59—Coleman H. Cross, 1859-60—William T. Dye.

Back to Red River Circuit (No Conference was held because of the Civil War): 1860-63—S. D. Ogburn, J. W. Davis, J. M. Pirtle, 1863-64—Green P. Jackson, 1864-65—E. R. Sheppard, D. Ogburn, Superintendent (membership totaled 124), 1865-66—J. B. Anderson, 1866-67—T. H. Huison.

Springfield Station: 1867-68—W. Weakley, 1868-69—S. L. Orman, 1869-70—H. T. Rowland, 1870-73—Green P. Jackson, 1873-76—Jeremiah Cullum, 1876-78—B. F. Haynes (Membership totaled 173), 1878-81—B. F. Haynes, 1881-82—J. W. Hanner, Jr., 1882-85—A. F. Farris (Membership totaled 158), 1885-87—R. J. Craig, 1887-89—J. H. Nichols, 1889-90—Green P. Jackson, 1890-91—R. E. Travis, 1891-92—D. C. Kelley, 1892-94—E. M. Harrell (Membership totaled 234), 1894-95—L. R. Amis, 1895-96—H. B. Reaves, 1896-98—J. J. Ransom, 1898-1902—T. B. Fisher, 1902-06—W. Weakley (1907—Conference at Springfield), 1906-10—W. B. Lowery, 1910-12—W. Weakley, 1912-14—G. L. Beale, 1914-18—D. M. Ausmus, 1918-21—R. H. Hudgens, 1921-23—W. V. Jarrett, 1923-27—A. J. Morgan, 1927-31—E. P. Anderson, 1931-35—T. C. Ragsdale, 1935-39—N. B. Tucker, 1939-48—G. L. Wall, 1948-51—H. T. Tipps, 1951—
John I. Dickson.

MRS. EUGENE BECK, *Historian*

ERIN

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

From the dawn of the first settlement of this area in 1799 religious worship has played a central role in the life of its people. Worship services were first held in the homes wherever and whenever a few gathered together. The first service in which an ordained minister

preached and a collection was taken was held in 1812 on the Brigham farm about two miles north of Erin. Religious services in Erin proper seem to have centered around a "Union Church," so called because all denominations worshiped together. It was constructed in the 1830's near the present home of Mr. Sidney Boone about one-fourth mile east of the present Court Square. Much other local business was transacted in this building. It survived the Civil War, as no big engagements were fought in this vicinity, and was used for many years afterwards. Even with this central meeting place available for worship, there was still a tendency to continue the small home group worship.

The Methodist denominations emerged from these home meetings and from the Union Church in 1882. Both the Northern and the Southern Methodists built and dedicated churches during this year. The Southern Methodist Church was a frame building which cost about \$1,200.00. The Northern group built a smaller church and over a period of about fifteen or twenty years was absorbed into the Southern branch through marriages of its members.

The present Methodist Church was built in 1899. It was a grand event in which the school children marched in a body from the school near the Roby home west of Erin to participate in the cornerstone ceremony. They placed various trinkets in the center of this stone as related by a student who took part in this service.

This second church, built of brick, has undergone changes through the years. The interior was remodeled between 1904 and 1907 under the pastorate of Rev. J. E. Woodward. In 1927 four classrooms were added under the direction of Rev. B. H. Parker. Then due to growth and the expansion of services an annex was added in 1950. This included three additional classrooms, a large fellowship hall, and kitchen facilities. Rev. Thomas H. Chappell was pastor at this time.

The present membership of the church is 314. Activities are numerous and reach every age group in the membership as well as all in the community. Projects of Christian development daily challenge the talents of all who have committed their lives to service for his Kingdom.

Needless to say, soldiers of the Cross have developed under the guiding influence of such a church. Four of these have entered the ministry. They are Woodward Adams, Billy Adams, George Baxter, and Max Mobley. Others have been the stanch laymen, both men and women, who have shouldered the responsibilities and are still carrying the banner of Christianity wherever they take up their abode. Such is the aim and purpose of every church.

J. D. LEWIS, JR.

CAMP GROUND

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

Camp Ground Methodist Church took its name from the camp meetings held in this community as early as 1825. For many years services were conducted in a log church. Not until 1875 was a Sunday school organized with E. G. Yancy as superintendent and J. A. Smith as secretary. William Seaton was licensed to preach in this church in 1885. An old record shows that Mrs. Margaret Reynolds united with the church in 1890.

In 1895, the congregation moved to a new site at which time the building now in use was erected. The new building lot was donated by Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Hosea. The deed was recorded July 27, 1895, in Book Y, page 185. The church has a membership of 93 and 84 enrolled in the Sunday school. The congregation is growing in spirituality and in membership.

JAMES T. JOHNSON, *Pastor*

GREER'S CHAPEL

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The earliest known place of worship in the community was the Van Buren Academy, which was established 125 years ago, about 1831. Another place was the Old Mount Union building which was used for both church and school purposes a hundred years ago. Rev. A. B. Wright, who was one of the early pastors in this area, helped to establish Methodism in this section. His circuit embraced Fentress, Pickett, Morgan, Cumberland, and Scott Counties in Tennessee and Clinton and Waynes Counties in Kentucky. In 1890 the Old Mount Union log church building was moved to the site of the present church and rebuilt. In 1900 it was replaced by a frame building which was used for church and school purposes until 1920 and then as a church until 1939. The present building was begun in 1938 and finished in 1941. The building committee was composed of Marion Greer, W. M. Johnson, E. E. Crouch, Ernest Buck, and Ruble Upchurch, who served as secretary and treasurer. The Methodist Board of Home Missions was a great help to our church, beginning in 1920 when the old schoolhouse was bought for church purposes, with two parsonages, and finally in the erection of our present stone building. Our appreciation for this connectional spirit and help will never be forgotten.



Greer's Chapel

We have 113 full members and a growing Sunday school. Rev. E. W. Doggett is our pastor. We are on the Forbus Circuit which has six appointments.

RUBLE UPCHURCH, *Historian*

BLANKENSHIP

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

This church is located in what is called the Flat Woods (now Vannatta) of Bedford County, north of Shelbyville, Tennessee.

Blankenship society was organized in 1831, and the group worshiped in a schoolhouse one mile northeast of the present building until 1838, when a meetinghouse was built near the schoolhouse in which the congregation worshiped until 1861.

Robert Cooper and wife, John L. Cooper, Benjamin Blankenship, Edward Tarpley, Mrs. Susan Barnes, James Buckner and wife, and Robert Taylor were among the charter members of the church.

The present house was erected in 1861, and was dedicated the same year by the Rev. J. B. McFerrin. The name of the church perpetuates the memory of a good man, Rev. Benjamin Blankenship, who was a

pioneer in Middle Tennessee Methodism of more than local celebrity, and whose sleeping dust lies nearby.

What a wonderful history has Methodism! We can truly sing: "We are traveling home to God, in the way our Fathers trod."

DURWARD McCORD, *Pastor*

BETHESDA

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

As near as we can ascertain the Bethesda Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1832. Mary W. Padgett, Catherine E. Murrey, and Jane Chriesman joined this church in 1832, 1833, and 1834, respectively, according to an old record. The first building was a rude log structure that was built on property given by Mark L. Andrews and Henry C. Horton. This property was in the twelfth civil district of Williamson County and was in a small field adjacent to the upper reaches of Rutherford Creek.

The first trustees were Wilson Lavender, John McCurdy, Mark L. Andrews, H. H. Horton, Jere Fisher, Henry G. Padgett, J. L. Morris, H. C. Horton, and Blythe Sprott. Within a few years this building was found to be inadequate, probably because it was so close to the creek. The creek sometimes gets over the old church grounds. A new lot was obtained and a brick structure was erected. This brick building served as the meetinghouse for Bethesda Methodist Episcopal Church, South, until the late 1860's. Sometime after the War Between the States the building, for some reason, became inadequate or unsuitable for worship. In 1870 a new two-story frame building was erected almost on the same spot that had held the former structure. The upper story has since its erection been used by the Masonic Lodge. The church building is still in fair condition with a new coat of paint inside and out. The present building was dedicated about 1876 by the Reverend William Burr while A. F. Lawrence was pastor.

Family names not mentioned above but found on the early church records include Hatcher, Scales, Core, Petway, Smithson, McCall, Crafton, Mosley, McMillan, Alexander, Grigsby, Johnson, Taylor, Beasley, Bond, Giles, Reed, Eggleston, Walton, and others. Several new families have united with our church in the last few years.

Bethesda has sent several persons into Christian work. Those who have gone into the ministry from this church include: Rev. Thad Hudson who became a well-known figure in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Rev. Andrew Tyre who left this conference and preached in Methodist churches in North Carolina. Glenn O.

Grigsby is a local preacher from our church who has been doing supply work in the Mount Pleasant District. Misses Ida and Kate Shannon went as missionaries to Japan from Bethesda Church. The above-mentioned Mark L. Andrews was a local preacher and he was probably in charge of the people who were organized into the Methodist church at Bethesda. He was a very devout Methodist local preacher who was an active member of Williamson County business, politics, and religion.

At the present time we have 105 members. We have an active Sunday school and W.S.C.S. We also have some young persons interested in doing full-time Christian work.

WILLIAM T. BUCKNER, *Pastor*

BARREN PLAINS

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The Methodist Church in the Barren Plains community was organized in 1832, thirteen years before the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, had its beginning. Therefore, it has had connection with three Methodist Churches—The Methodist Episcopal Church; The Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and The Methodist Church.

November 29, 1832, William Jernigan and David Jernigan sold to Edward Edwards, John Jernigan, Nicholas Covington, Benjamin Jernigan, and John McMullen, trustees for the church, a building lot for \$10.00. The present building is located on the original lot. The sanctuary was recently remodeled and is now very beautiful. The membership numbers about fifty with half this number enrolled in the Sunday school. The Woman's Society of Christian Service was recently organized. All finances are regularly paid and a fine faith prevails.

GLEN A. MURRELL, *Pastor*

ANTIOCH

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The present site of Antioch Church was for many years a camp meeting ground where families came and spent several days in worship. Sunday school was held followed by two preaching services, at eleven and one o'clock.

The exact date that the building for Antioch Church was erected is not known, but the first pastor was Rev. Mark Gray in 1833. He was a pioneer preacher of Tennessee and Alabama. The "Sabbath schools" were held in an old log building which was also used for

the day school. Following Rev. Gray's service at Antioch, no record of pastors is known until 1854.

Originally Antioch was among the twenty-one churches which belonged to the Dickson Circuit. In 1854-55 this circuit was divided and the lower division named Antioch, presumably because it was the oldest church in the division. In 1857 N. H. Allen, Esquire, was requested to "draft by-laws for the Antioch Union Sabbath School" and the trustees appointed at this time were Messrs. Allen, Ramey, Ussery, Caldwell, and Thompson. Mr. Allen manifested a great interest in this Sabbath school and donated one dozen hymnbooks for its use. The enrollment at this date was seventy-two.

Regular services and Conferences were held for this church and circuit, except in 1863-64 during the Civil War. On May 4, 1865, the Sabbath school was reorganized with forty-eight members and as far as known has been a good school with good attendance through the years.

December 14, 1892, a three-acre tract of land, belonging to S. H. and Fred Lyle, was deeded to Antioch Church for \$10.00. This tract was deeded to Trustees W. R. Thompson, W. M. Ussery, B. A. Orgain, W. G. Sanders, J. W. Attaway, B. W. Ussery, W. G. Hunt and their successors. An interesting fact is that a number of the present members of Antioch are the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of these original members.

The church was first remodeled in 1901 when Rev. J. T. Thornton was pastor. At this time new rafters and ceiling were installed. In 1934, while Rev. J. W. Swann was pastor, four Sunday school rooms were added. During the following years electricity was installed and the church heated by gas. Again in 1953-54 great improvements were made in the building when a basement was constructed which added more Sunday school rooms and a kitchen. In the sanctuary the walls were replastered, the woodwork refinished, and a new hardwood floor installed. A coat of paint was applied to the exterior.

The history of Antioch reveals that she has produced several local preachers and an outstanding preacher from Antioch was Rev. Bruce Lyle who served in the Tennessee Conference.

At present the Woman's Society of Christian Service with twenty-one members, and the Wesleyan Guild with twelve members, are very active and doing a good work. The Young Adults and M.Y.F. are energetic groups who are ready at all times to go forward with the church activities.

The church membership at present is 226, and the church school enrollment is 120. Indications are that Antioch will continue to grow and thrive down through the ages.

MRS. VERNON USSERY

GLADEVILLE

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

When Miss Mary Hooker, a lifelong member of the church, left to the Gladeville Methodist Church a sum of \$2,000, she was continuing a practice begun by her father, Jonathan Hooker, early in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Jonathan Hooker, a large landowner, gave the land on which the Gladeville School and the Gladeville Methodist Church are now located. The first church, situated only a few hundred feet from the present structure, was built in the year 1833. Built of logs, this original structure was a twelve-cornered building in the general outline of a cross with equal arm lengths.

A second church was built in the early 1880's. This was a one-room rectangular building, weatherboarded and ceiled with wide poplar planks. The third church was begun with the \$2,000 left by Miss Hooker. It is located on the exact site of the second building and was completed and dedicated in 1946. The new church, built under the supervision of the pastor, Rev. R. S. Qualls, is a brick structure including a sanctuary finished in hardwood, three classrooms, and a large basement. The pulpit now in use is one of the links with the past. It was built by Rev. Harvey Rice, a preacher in the Tennessee Conference, and has been used in the church well over half a century.

The oldest membership records show that the first member of the church was Nancy Ragsdale, received into the church by Rev. John Rice. Rev. Rice was admitted on trial into the Tennessee Conference in 1821 and was probably the first pastor. Another of the early pastors was Rev. Fountain E. Pitts who was a prominent leader in Tennessee Methodism.

Gladeville Methodist Church has produced three ministers for the Tennessee Conference—Rev. J. D. Hewgley, Rev. Burton Estes, and Rev. John Estes.

Although Gladeville has been a circuit church most of its history, more recently being a part of the Jacob's Hill Circuit, in 1949 it became a station with Rev. C. Glenn Mingledorff as the first pastor. Before the completion of one year as a station, a new asbestos shingled parsonage was built one mile north of the church.

The membership of the church in 1955 was 190, with the same spirit of growth being shown as was first demonstrated more than a century and a quarter ago.

W. CANNON KINNARD, *Pastor*

TULLAHOMA

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

There is evidence that a Methodist church stood somewhere on Rock Creek near the site of Tullahoma as early as 1834. Not too much is discoverable about this early church. It was in 1852 or 1853 that the Methodist Episcopal Church, South acquired the lots at the corner of Jackson and Lauderdale Streets in Tullahoma. This was at the time the town was laid out. The cornerstone for the church building at this site was laid August 17, 1854. This wooden frame building was destroyed by fire during the War Between the States.

The second frame building was erected and used until 1889 when the present building was begun. Three major additions have been made. The building now covers one acre of floor space with a sanctuary which seats 738. The membership now stands at near 1,400. In 1866 the Tullahoma Circuit had a membership of 710 which was the second largest in the Tennessee Conference. The name First Methodist Church has been used since unification in 1939.

FARRIS MOORE, *Pastor*

BETHEL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Ever since the dawn of history man has felt the need to group together for the worship of God. So it was with our forefathers, the founders of Bethel Church, one of the pioneer Methodist churches in Tennessee. Located in the northern part of Montgomery County, it is said to be the oldest church building in the county now in use.

We know little of its earliest founding. Among old official records we find that in 1834 land was deeded to Bethel Methodist Church, also called Bethel "Meeting House," by Manoah Bostick, Revolutionary War veteran, whose descendants are members of the church at the present date.

The deed is worded in part:

"Because of the regard with which I have for the cause of religion, I leave to the trustees and their successors forever and ever . . ."

The names of the trustees follow: Richard Thacher, Fountain Jones, William Pegram, John Gilmer, Nicholas Gilmer, James Reeves—Witnesses, James Manson, N. P. Thomas.

The church building, however, must have been built years before. Major Bostick also gave land to the church to be used for camp meetings, where people would come in wagons, bring their families, and stay for days listening to services by circuit riders. This land became known as Camp Ground Hill, later as White Bluff.

Three churches were built where the present building now stands. First, a log church, then a frame one which burned. The latter was built with two doors, one side for men and the other for ladies, and there was a raised platform for slaves.

The brick church which now stands was built of brick made by slaves in a brick kiln on the Elliot farm. Six generations of Elliots have been members at Bethel. At one time Bethel was the recipient of a legacy from W. D. Elliot, Sr. The present church has double doors in front, but in time past the doors were at the sides. The pulpit was made by a Mr. Bridewater. The church at one time was used as a storehouse and post office.

Looking over old records, we find the names: Johnson, Dabney, Harris, Manson, Batts, McKensil, Wallace, Hambaugh, Roberts, Anderson, and Durrett. These men saw the needs of the church and met them. Some of the earliest pastors were Brothers Duncan, So-well, Cotton. The Rev. Frank Ferguson is the present pastor.

The large Bible used in the Sunday school rooms was given to the church by Mrs. W. P. Hambaugh in "loving memory of my beloved husband." A silver Communion service, used at one time, was given by Mrs. A. T. Harrabaugh in memory of her grandmother, Mrs. W. S. Harris.

At the beginning of World War II a large Army camp was established near the church, Camp Campbell. Because of the interest shown by the members, and because of the historic value, the government left the church in the hands of the trustees.

To meet the growing needs, four Sunday school rooms were built, dedicated to S. Sgt. Edmund Dabney, who lost his life in World War II. This is designated by a bronze plaque bearing his name. About this time Bethel began to take on a new look. The interior was remodeled, and a beautiful plaque obtained in Europe was presented the church by its pastor at that time, Rev. C. B. Smith. This was tinted and framed by the S. D. Durrett family. The halo over the head of Christ is of pure gold and was placed by Dr. H. L. Durrett. The soft greens and white of the walls and woodwork form a perfect setting for the unusual picture.

The attendance has grown so rapidly that a new annex is now under construction. The years have long gone since the wagons creaked along the road or turned into the church yard under the maple trees bringing the folk of the countryside together to worship God and visit with their neighbors.

The little church still stands, an oasis between a modern four-way highway on which cars flash by on either side. Standing at the gate of one of the largest Army camps, it has proved to be a home church for the strangers who are made welcome there. Bethel stands a beacon

of light in a dark world, a tribute to those who have gone before, an inspiration to those of the present who gather there.

The trustees of Bethel are: R. E. Durrett, E. E. Buckner, Japhet Nussbaumer, and Winfield Durrett. Mr. Wade Hadley is church school superintendent, Mr. Charles Gentry is lay leader, and Mrs. Winfield Durrett is organist.

Rev. William T. Buckner, pastor of Bethesda Circuit, Columbia District, entered the Methodist ministry from this church. He is the son of E. E. Buckner, one of the trustees.

MRS. WADE HADLEY, *Historian*

HAMILTON

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Hamilton Methodist Church was organized in 1834, and was a member of the Mill Creek Circuit. Since that time, it has been in the Hollindale Circuit, the Smyrna Circuit, and the Antioch Circuit. While a member of these circuits, Hamilton was in the Columbia District. In 1950, Hamilton became a station church, and in 1951, a member of the Nashville District.

The land on which the church was originally built was given by George Franklin Hamilton, one of the church founders, for whom the church was named. It was located on the Nashville-to-Murfreesboro highway twelve miles south of Nashville.

The first building was a small log house which stood on the ground which is now occupied by a cemetery. This building burned sometime before the Civil War. It was replaced by a larger, more attractive log house during the pastorship of Rev. William Doss. During the Civil War this second building was burned by Union soldiers.

For about three years after the burning of the second building, services were held in the Squirrel Hill schoolhouse. Sometime in the late 1860's, a third building was constructed on a small rise on the southeast corner of the plot of land across Hamilton Road from the site of the earlier church buildings.

In 1925, during the pastorship of Rev. H. A. Early, the church was moved forward about seventy-five yards to its present position and enlarged. In 1948 a Sunday school annex was built, and the sanctuary was remodeled. In 1950, a parsonage was built on an adjacent lot behind the church on Hamilton Road.

Since Hamilton became a station church in 1950, it has been served by student pastors from Vanderbilt School of Religion. It expects to have its first full-time pastor in the near future. The present membership is 209, and for the first time in the church's history, it has a full program.

CHARLES S. DICKENS, *Pastor*

MT. CARMEL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The ground on which Mt. Carmel Methodist Church now stands was donated by Edward Cage. Thomas Gunn, James Gunn, John M. Hollis, Francis Williams, Asa W. Hooper, Samuel R. Moody, Thomas Martin, William Shaw, and James Moody were the original trustees. The deed was made September 20, 1834. The above-named trustees held the property in trust for the Methodist Church of the United States of America. This was a warranty deed.

On August 23, 1851, Edward Cage gave to the trustees of Mt. Carmel Methodist Church a deed of relinquishment of all the right, title, claim, and interest reserved to him and his heirs in the plot of ground as described in the warranty deed given September 20, 1834.

The first meetinghouse was built of logs cleared from the wilderness. This building was later replaced by a small frame building which served for some years as a house of worship and a schoolhouse. About the year 1877 the present structure was completed. It is a frame building with high arched ceiling, and comfortable oak pews. The old lectern is of matching oak. The pulpit chairs of carved walnut and red plush were presented to this "new" church by the late William Garaldus Pickering.

The first missionary from the Clarksville District was sent out from the District Conference held at Mt. Carmel Church in 1906. Motozo Akazawa, a Japanese boy who had been converted under Bishop M. C. Harris, had completed his training for work in his own country. He addressed the conference on the needs of his people in Japan and expressed a desire to return to his native land as a Christian missionary. Mr. A. P. Jackson, of Ashland City, district lay leader, arose and said: "Brethren, why can't we support this man while he preaches the gospel to his own people? Let him be our personal representative." And thus it was the Clarksville District became the first in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to assume the support of a native missionary. It is interesting to note that Motozo Akazawa was elected to the episcopacy in 1930.

In March 1949, Mt. Carmel was again host to the Clarksville District Conference. The guests were assembled in a building enlarged by the addition of church school rooms, heated with propane gas, floored in hardwood with softly carpeted aisles, with light from the spacious windows controlled by venetian blinds.

Mt. Carmel is proud of a record of service covering more than a century of time. She is proud of her members now serving in the ministry, in the Tennessee Conference, namely, Rev. Sandy Hogan,

Rev. Cullom Elliott, Rev. Vernon McGhee, and in the Kentucky Conference, Rev. John F. Baggett.

VIRGINIA PICKERING, *Historian*

CHARLOTTE

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

It is believed that the Charlotte Methodist Church had its beginning near the year 1834, and that the first minister was John L. Hill. The church was log with split log seats, and was located near the present site.

In the year 1877, the present property was deeded by E. E. Larkins to the trustees of the Charlotte Methodist Church, who were D. R. Leech, W. H. Neblett, James Steel, Robert Steel, Thomas Overton, T. H. W. James, and J. M. Bell. A new church was built and the first pastor was Richard P. Gannaway, 1877.

During John W. Gilbert's stay as pastor, 1896-99, the church was remodeled and turned around. During the pastorate of Rev. B. F. Argo, 1928-31, the church was remodeled again and Sunday school rooms were added.

Up to the present time, January, 1956, there have been sixty-three pastors at Charlotte Methodist Church. SIDNEY M. STINE, *Pastor*

SHADY GROVE

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Shady Grove Methodist Episcopal Church, South is located in White County, Tennessee. It was in Murfreesboro District until the Cookeville District was organized. We know very little about the early history of our church. Some of the early records burned. However we believe there was an organization in the 1830's. The first record of any church was in 1845.

The people worshiped in a log house with open fireplace for heat and sat on old-fashioned puncheon seats. The building was used for church services and school. In 1882 they decided to build a new church building. They began work, but with their slow methods of work it was not finished until 1884. Each piece of dressed lumber was dressed by hand. Mr. Johnnie Jenkins did the work. This building was also used for church and school until 1907 when they built a schoolhouse and school was moved.

The church moved along with minor improvements until 1945 when they began improvements by digging a basement and forming

classrooms. The inside was refinished by ceiling overhead and sides with Celotex. It had previously been floored but it was sanded and finished. New pews and gas heat have been installed, a new pulpit and pulpit chairs, table and altar rail have also been added.

After the Unification the Shady Grove Circuit was formed in 1942 and consists of Mt. Pisgah, Shady Grove, Wesley Chapel, Almyra, and Peeled Chestnut. The circuit bought an acre of land from Brown Grissom in the Shady Grove community and built a parsonage in 1947. It was first occupied by C. F. Brown.

Samuel A. Cashdollar was a local preacher. He served in the 1870's. His son, S. T. Cashdollar, was reared in this church and was converted in the church when he was a young man. He later joined the Nazarene Church and became a preacher. Samuel A. Cashdollar's great-grandson, Ernest Cashdollar, became a preacher. He was licensed in 1955 and given a charge at conference in September 1955.

John Wesley Swindell was a licensed local preacher in the 1890's.

The following pastors served this church for the past seventy-five years: David S. Thompson—1882-84, Thomas S. Cullum—1884-87, T. A. Carden—1887-88, J. C. Roberts—1888-89, W. T. Dye—1889-91, J. A. Bridges—1891-93, G. W. Taylor—1893-96, W. R. Keathley, —1896-97, M. W. Charles—1897-99, J. T. Duncan—1899-1900, John S. Hensley—1900-04, Robert Waite—1904-06, L. T. Bradfield—1906-08, T. J. Purtecost—1908-11, W. R. Wilson—1911-12, R. A. Shelton—1912-16, A. H. Lane—1916-18, J. O. Crawford—1918-19, B. J. Rochelle—1919-20, J. W. Crigger—1920-22, J. W. Clifford—1922-23, A. H. Edens—1923-24, T. J. Clark—1924-25, S. D. Organ—1925-27, J. C. Elliott—1927-31, P. A. Kirby—1931-32, E. G. Goodwin—1932-36, M. R. Gallaher—1936-37, J. E. Broyles—1937-38, Albert Ashley—1938-40, Gueary T. Reed—1940-42, Grady M. Lemons—1942-43, J. Max Tinnson—1943-44, E. Birch Wilcox—1944-47, C. F. Brown—1947-48, W. T. White—1948-49, Minford Hicks—1949-51, W. M. Stowers—1951-

VINNIE McPEAK,

NANNIE CASHDOLLAR, *Historians*

McMINNVILLE

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

It appears from the records that McMinnville, although the county seat of Warren County, was later than the many rural communities of the county in organizing Methodist societies. The records do not reveal the exact date when the Methodist society in McMinnville was organized. The name first appears in the minutes as a host to the second Quarterly Conference in 1836. In 1844 the membership of the

church was thirty-one white and forty-nine colored and the conference quarterage was twenty-five cents.

In 1847 a committee was appointed by the Quarterly Conference to superintend the building of a church, at which time the society had thirty-four white and forty-nine colored members. There was much delay in completing the building and in 1851 a new committee was appointed and directed to sell the partially completed structure and solicit subscriptions for a brick building. At the first quarterly conference in 1852 the trustees reported a deficit of \$300 for the work already contracted, whereupon, the Conference and those present subscribed \$110 of the amount. At a meeting of the third Quarterly Conference of that year the building was reported completed but had a deficit of \$200 which was liquidated at the Conference.

This brick building, located at the rear of the Magness Memorial Library and Community House, served the congregation until 1888, when the small brick church was sold and the present sanctuary erected. This little brick building remained intact until 1954 when it was purchased by Dr. C. E. Peery, Jr., from its then owners, who has razed the building and has erected a building for his office on the same ground.

Approximately thirty years ago a lot at the rear of the present church building was purchased, and in 1940 an education building, known as the "Willis Memorial Building," was erected. This building was made possible by the provisions of the last will and testate of the late Col John L. Willis, well known and successful attorney, who served the church faithfully as a steward and trustee for many years. In addition to the fund which he left to construct the building which bears his name, he left a bequest of \$5,000 in trust and directed that the income from this fund be used to maintain the building. He left an additional sum of \$10,000 in trust and directed that the annual income therefrom be used to supplement the pastor's salary.

In 1939 the congregation purchased the present parsonage. It is a large two-story brick residence adjacent to the church and facing on West Main Street. The McMinnville congregation boasts of having one of the largest and best parsonages in the Tennessee Conference.

Although getting a late and slow start, the McMinnville congregation has been experiencing a steady growth during the past fifty years. During the last twenty years of that time it has shown unusual progress and now has approximately 700 members. Over the years it has been served by many consecrated ministers who have piloted its steady growth through the years of its existence.

C. B. SMITH, *Pastor*

LEWISBURG

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Methodism in Lewisburg had its beginnings sometime prior to the year 1836. One Howard Carlton deeded four acres of land to the trustees of the Methodist Church, namely: John Lavendar, Ezekiel Hogan, Samuel Watson, Edward Osteen, James Scott, George H. Allen, James Garrett, William Hughes, and Absalom Bostick. The consideration was "from love." The appointment was "Marshall Mission." So far as is known there is but one family in the church today who are descendants of these original trustees. A house of worship was erected and a cemetery opened. All that remains of this today is the cemetery, sadly neglected. It is located about one mile from Lewisburg Public Square and one quarter mile west of the Cornersville Highway. This seems to be the only record available concerning this property.

In the year 1836 the town of Lewisburg granted the Methodist Church two lots fronting on Church Street and cornering on Fourth Avenue North. This has been the location of the church through all these intervening years.

On February 14, 1838, a church was organized with twenty-nine members under the leadership of Rev. W. P. Nichols. There seems to be no further record until the year 1898, when, under the pastorate of Dr. George A. Morgan, a beautiful and commodious brick building was erected. After more than a half-century this building is still standing and in excellent condition.

In the year 1924, Rev. B. F. Isom was appointed as pastor and served for six years. During his pastorate a two-story brick annex was built across the rear of the house of worship. This was to care for a growing Sunday school. Mrs. Isom, Bro. Isom's widow, is a member of this church today; active, efficient, influential, consecrated. During the pastorate of Rev. E. M. Steel, 1910-14, a pipe organ was installed. This was made possible through the aid of the Carnegie Foundation, which contributed \$1,000 toward its purchase price. In 1948 the Sunday school had once more outgrown its quarters and under the leadership of Rev. R. L. Benton a second annex was built. This is a two-story, fireproof building, an extension of the first annex.

For many years a parsonage has stood on the lot adjoining the church building. No record is available as to when it was built. Dr. B. B. Pennington served the church as pastor from 1950 to 1953. During that time extensive improvements were made on the interior of the sanctuary. A new dwelling on eighth Avenue, South was purchased to be used as a parsonage. The former parsonage is

being converted into temporary quarters for a growing Sunday school and for Boy Scouts.

Only two near tragedies have come to the church during this long history. Sometime in the early years default on an indebtedness on the building brought court action against it. The matter was satisfactorily settled and the property remained as church property. In recent years a fire started in the office. It was soon discovered and extinguished before large damage was done, but not until most records were burned. This is accountable, in part, for the lack of more correct details in this record.

The membership today is 799 with a Sunday school enrollment of 562. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

MRS. W. P. MURREY,

MRS. E. M. STEEL, *Historians*

COWLES CHAPEL

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

As nearly as can be ascertained, between the years of 1830 and 1840, Mr. Oscar Reams gave three acres of land on what is now known as the Lower Thompson Station Road, about one-fourth mile off the Lewisburg Road, to be used for church property. On this land was erected a building known as the "Prospect Methodist Church." This church was also used as a school; it was furnished with crude wooden benches, and heated with a large open fireplace.

Later Mr. John Cowles bought the estate of Mr. Reams and in August, 1871, deeded one and one-half acres of land, the present site of Cowles Church, in exchange for the three acres previously given. Members of Prospect Church had logs cut and sawed into lumber with which the new building was made, also for the seats which are still used. When completed the church was dedicated and given the name of Cowles Chapel.

Through the years, the church has had its ups and down. However, today the church is making a great deal of progress and seeking to continue improvements on the church building. The present membership is approximately sixty.

ROBERT W. WALKER, *Pastor*

TRINITY (Giles County)

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Vale Mill, five miles west of Pulaski, was quite a business center in the 1830's or about that period. The needs of the surrounding com-

munity were largely supplied by its stores, shops, and factory. Tradition states that there was also a Vale Mill Methodist Church at this business center. According to the growth of Methodism in Giles County, beginning at Pulaski in 1810, we have no doubt but there was a Methodist church at Vale Mill as early as 1830 or before this date.

Vale Mill became Trinity Methodist Church in 1847 when the business center began to go down. The records show that John Amis donated three acres of land at Vale Mill to William Potter and others as trustees for a Methodist church which was named "Trinity." Jim McKissick sawed the logs which were donated by members into lumber for the new church. Rev. R. L. Fagan and Rev. Goldman Green were pastors during the period of the Civil War, 1861-65. This building was destroyed by a tornado March 21, 1931. The next day the pastor, Rev. C. S. Wilson, called a meeting and plans were immediately made to rebuild. Mr. S. E. Reynolds was selected to supervise the construction and within three months with fine cooperation the building was completed and it was dedicated in June by the Presiding Elder of the Columbia District, Rev. T. W. Noland.

The first Woman's organization at Trinity was a "Ladies' Aid Society" and Mrs. Will Reynolds was the president. Following the Aid Society, the Woman's Missionary Society was organized the third Sunday in November 1929. Mrs. Duncan Burns was elected president and served in this office for thirteen years. With Unification of American Methodism in 1939, the Woman's Missionary Society became the Woman's Society of Christian Service. In 1948 during the pastorate of Rev. E. D. Trout, the W.S.C.S. sponsored the erection of five beautiful Sunday school rooms at the rear of the sanctuary. Mrs. J. T. Kennedy was president of the society during this period.

In December 1953, Mrs. Flanouy Reed made Trinity a gift of \$5,000 for the purpose of redecorating the building and improving the ground. The Woman's Society of Christian Service supplemented this gift with a donation of \$230. Due recognition of these improvements was made by the pastor, Rev. N. O. Allen, May 9, 1954.

Rev. W. V. DeRamus, a member of Trinity, was recommended by the Quarterly Conference in 1939 for license to preach. Rev. Russell Boaz was pastor and Rev. Cullen T. Carter was District Superintendent. His recommendation, which was unanimous, was previously indorsed by the Board of Education.

Trinity has a church membership of 200 full members and 77 in the Sunday school. Rev. J. E. Trotter is our pastor. The following compose the present board of trustees: J. T. Kennedy, S. E. Reynolds, Walter Burns.

MRS. J. T. KENNEDY, *Historian*

SMITHVILLE

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The First Methodist Church in Smithville, Tennessee, was organized during the period when the great mass of middle class and the less privileged were making themselves felt in the affairs of government. These were stirring times in Tennessee. Andrew Jackson was occupying the White House in Washington, when in 1836 the Methodist Church first occupied a place in Smithville. The first church building evidently was a log structure which was used for ten years.

Mr. Lem Batten gave the ground in 1846 for a new church site upon which a neat red brick building was erected. This building was used for both church and school purposes which was a common practice in those early years. The building served this dual purpose for ten years until it was destroyed by fire in 1856. In the same year a small frame building was erected and used for fifty-four years. In 1910, a larger and more substantial building was erected. It was used until 1953 when it was torn down and replaced by a modern new brick edifice valued at \$75,000.

The church has a membership of over 400 and a Sunday school enrollment of approximately 300. It is promoting a full program of church activities. The salary for the pastor is \$3,500 and all financial obligations are paid promptly.

C. W. KUNZELMAN, *Pastor*

PLEASANT VIEW

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

In the year 1836, a Methodist church was organized on Spring Creek at the crossing of the Clarksville-Nashville pike. The organizers were Peter Woodson, William Shaw, Christopher Williams, and Shadrack Hunt. The house that served as a church had one log room. They had no regular preacher, but Bishop Morris, Peter Cartwright, John Johnson, and other devout men preached here occasionally. This crude building was one of five that was selected as an early camp meeting ground and was known as "Shaw's Meeting House." People came from a great distance to attend these meetings.

In 1872, the congregation moved to a building two miles south of what is now Pleasant View. It was known as Shaw's Cross Roads and had a membership of approximately 100.

In August, 1887, when the little village of Pleasant View began to grow in population and business, the present church here was organized under Bishop E. R. Hendrix, Presiding Elder J. W. Hill, and Rev. G. S. Byrom, preacher in charge.

Other ministers who served this church, which was called "Pleasant View Methodist Episcopal Church, South" were: J. T. Blackwood, J. G. Rice, J. L. Chenault, C. S. Gabard, J. N. Jones, W. T. S. Cook, J. L. Teague, J. G. Harper, W. H. Lovell, J. M. Oakley, W. F. Powers, J. R. Reeves, F. L. Hawkins, J. O. Crawford, C. P. Givens, E. U. Robinson, G. M. Davenport, W. H. Beasley, J. R. Wright, S. M. Ensor, J. W. Lantrip, T. C. Adams, W. E. Couser, J. K. Sides, James Chesnutt, and Charles W. Scragg, Jr., who is the present pastor. Rev. H. T. Tipps is the District Superintendent.

In 1947, the educational annex, consisting of seven Sunday school rooms, was built. The church has continued to grow each year and the present membership is 229.

C. W. SCRAGG, JR., *Pastor*

BETHLEHEM

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Bethlehem Methodist Church is located on McAdoo Creek in the fifteenth Civil District of Montgomery County, Tennessee. This is one of the oldest church sites in the county. The first church was a log structure and was used for day school as well as a meetinghouse. The church was first organized on the present site and deeded to the trustees by William Dunlop on September 5, 1836. The trustees at the time were Drury Bagwell, William J. McCauley, Willie Bagwell, John Smith, Edward Cage, Benjamin Hewitt, and Evan Swift.

The original building was replaced by the present building in 1899. The building was dedicated June 17, 1900. Presiding Elder P. A. Sowell was in charge of the services. Rev. T. W. Nolan was pastor of the church at the time. Some of the charter members were Jacob Ramey, Albert Frech, Alex Frech, James Smith, Gustavus Cocke, Dempsey Majors, George Smith, George Powers, Jake Logan, John Rinehart, Jerry Wall, and Mrs. Corine Williams. Their descendants are members and faithful workers in the church today.

The charge was known as the Asbury Circuit, named for Bishop Asbury, a pioneer in Methodism.

The charge consisted of five churches, namely: Bethlehem, Sango, Hickory Point, Brewers Chapel, and Carmel. The charge was divided in 1949 under the leadership of C. B. Cook, District Superintendent, and G. W. Baxter, pastor, and is now known as Sango-Bethlehem charge. Since the charge was divided each church has services each Sunday, whereas before each had services only twice each month.

This year, 1955, an educational department has been added, consisting of five classrooms.

The auditorium has been redecorated, a window panel of The

Lord's Prayer painted and given in memory of a member, Jack Smith. All-over cost of the improvements is \$6,500 with most of it paid.

Pastors that have served Bethlehem since the dedication of the present building are as follows: T. W. Nolan, 1900; J. W. Cullom, 1900-01; J. W. Faires, 1904-05; B. H. Johnson, 1906; J. L. League, 1907; R. S. Timmon, 1908-10; T. A. Carden, 1910-13; R. D. Hill, 1913-17; I. W. Keathley, 1917-19; P. R. Russell, 1919-21; B. F. Argo, 1921-23; Omar Charles, 1924; Frank L. Hawkins, 1926-28; C. M. Charles, 1929-33; Fred Amacher, 1934-May 1935; W. T. S. Cook, May 1935-October 1935; John W. Kelley, 1935; B. F. Argo, 1936-37; Charles S. Parker, 1938-40; J. M. Putnam, 1941-44; R. C. Moore, 1944-48; G. W. Baxter, 1948-53; J. B. Sessoms, 1953 to the present.

JOHN B. SESSOMS, *Pastor*

LOCK'S

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Lock's Methodist Church at Almaville is located in the Fourth Civil District of Rutherford County, twelve miles west of Murfreesboro and two miles off Highway 96. The church was founded in 1837 when the two-acre tract of land, upon which the church was erected, was given by Charles Lock for whom the church was named. Mr. Lock came from Virginia and located in the village of Almaville. The land was deeded March 15, 1837, to the following trustees: Barna Elliott, William Beasley, William Hail, H. W. Stegall, John Nance, Lodrick Puckett, James Patterson, Charles Lock, Thomas Bennett.

The old parsonage that stood back of the church was sold in 1953 and a new parsonage was erected to the left of the church. In 1950, five Sunday school rooms were added to the church.

The church has had thirty-five pastors for whom we have records. One hundred and forty-five are listed as members, and one hundred and twenty-six in Sunday school. We have a good church and it is growing. Rev. J. Robert Parks has been our pastor since 1952.

MRS. SHELTON EDWARDS, *Historian*

SHILOAH

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Shiloah Methodist Church is located eleven miles southeast of McMinnville. It was organized in 1837. The building lot was donated by Fredrick Stepp. Prior to the Civil War the membership was around two hundred. Since the Civil War, largely on account of shift in population, the membership was reduced to less than fifty by 1909. Today the membership stands at thirty-three.

The first building was a log house. It was used until 1889 when a frame building was erected which was used until 1954 at which time a new T-shaped concrete block structure was erected. It has a worshipful sanctuary, six Sunday school rooms and the plant is heated with gas. The following were members of the building committee: B. B. Hill, Harold Nelms, Haskel Madewell, Mrs. Marcella Stubblefield, Mrs. B. B. Hill, and Mrs. Harold Nelms. B. B. Hill is a great-great-grandson of Fredrick Stepp who donated the first lot. Rev. Ollie G. Binkley is our pastor.

B. B. HILL, *Historian*

NOLENSVILLE

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The Nolensville (Mt. Olivet) Methodist Church is believed to have been founded by Rev. B. R. Gant in 1837, with a membership of 37. Located one and one-half miles south of Nolensville, the structure was erected on the Seals farm. The church remained in this location for 16 years; then it was moved one-half mile south of Nolensville. After the building of this larger church, the membership increased rapidly.

During the War Between the States, the building was used for a Yankee billet. Later, it was used, weekdays, as a rural elementary school. During the time the church was on this location, it was the scene of many old-fashioned revivals and many souls were saved. For a while, during the War Between the States, the church was served by Rev. McAllister Cherry, Chaplain in the Confederate Army.

In 1894, under the leadership of Rev. George D. Bryne, the church was again relocated, this time in Nolensville at its present site. The new building required seventeen two-horse wagons to haul the lumber, which was purchased at two cents per board foot. The present building has the original cornerstone, located in the steeple foundation. In 1901, a church bell was purchased and is still used each Sunday to summon the members to church school and services. Over a decade ago, Sunday school rooms were built into the basement, and recently these were remodeled so as to be more serviceable. In addition, a modern kitchen has been built in the basement, and the sanctuary has just been "toned" to restore the original beauty. The steeple of the church, a distinctive landmark, was damaged by lightning several years ago and was promptly replaced.

After five generations, the names of several families still grace the church roll. The present enrollment is about 110. During World War II there were thirty-six of its members in the armed forces.

RALPH L. KOELEMAY, *Pastor*

WALNUT GROVE

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The Walnut Grove M. E. church was organized in the late 1830's. John and T. F. Mosely sold to T. H. White a parcel of land between Bean's Creek and Salem. The purpose was to build a Methodist church and cemetery in a grove of trees named Walnut Grove. Soon new settlers moved in but a more desirable place was needed. A new site was selected near the big spring. The present church now stands on it. The preparation to accommodate the great crowd coming in was to build a large bush arbor and to build a church house later. It worked. The Methodists came in vast numbers in wagons, oxcarts, on horseback, and afoot from Mt. Vernon, Marble Hill, Bethel, and Huntland. Even many from Madison County, Alabama, and other places came to take part in the great camp meeting often lasting four to six weeks annually. Sheep, cattle, and hogs were slaughtered near the springs and divided out freely and without price and then consumed. Other men would bring in a new supply and do likewise, sharing and practicing true fellowship.

The great bush arbor with straw on ground served as a sleeping place for the women and children at night. Men slept outside on quilts or in wagons. Most families brought cooking vessels to prepare the food; some brought their slaves to assist in the work.

All this preparation made Walnut Grove the outstanding center of southern Franklin, Moore and east Lincoln counties. All looked forward each year to the great camp meeting at Walnut Grove. Many converts afterward became leaders in the various churches.

Then on November 25, 1861, the present church and grounds were obtained and a deed made and registered with full particulars in Book-1, page 242. All of this is on record in the courthouse in Winchester. The building was finished after the Civil War, 1866.

The total membership now is 175. Sunday school enrollment averages seventy.

Rev. Robert Hall accepted full-time service through the Methodist church at Walnut Grove, 1947.

D. R. POOLE, *Pastor*

WESLEY'S CHAPEL

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Wesley's Chapel is located some eight miles west of Sparta in White County, Tennessee, among the foothills of the Cumberland. This little church has one of the oldest backgrounds of any church in that section of the county.

Officially Wesley's Chapel became affiliated with the Methodist

Episcopal Church, South, on February 4, 1848, when William Erwin, a pioneer landowner, deeded by "his mark" four acres of "lands, houses, woods, waters, and ways to John Erwin, John Sullivan, Henry Camron, Rev. Hezekiah Dildine, William Baker, and their successors in office for the uses and purposes of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South." Thus, these men became the first trustees of the property. One of these, the Rev. Hezekiah Dildine, an itinerant preacher among these early White County settlers, had organized a small congregation some years prior to 1848. The original small log church, with peg-legged benches, was there, along with a small cemetery, even at the time the deed was written. Undoubtedly, the bitter feelings over the slavery issue which caused the schism in the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1844-45 moved these founding fathers to become affiliated with the Southern Methodists.

The little log house, located some forty yards south of the present building, survived the ravages of the Civil War and reconstruction violence and served a congregation averaging about twenty members for over a half century.

One of the oldest graves in the cemetery is that of a Texas Confederate soldier who died in the area during the war. Now the cemetery is dotted with the names of Erwin, Terry, Jones, Griffin, Hutchings, and other patriarchal family names of the church and the community.

At the turn of the century, the present white frame church was constructed. John C. Terry, along with others of the congregation and community, sawed the lumber and built the house. Some of the early ministers were Rev. Pentecost, R. C. Crosslin, G. W. Snipes, G. L. Hensley, S. D. Organ, J. W. Clifford, and T. J. Clark. For a period prior to 1938 the membership was weak and the services were irregular.

From 1938-1940 a young minister, Albert Ashley, was pastor of the Sparta Circuit to which Wesley's Chapel belonged; credit must be given him for organizing the church on its present basis. Since that time an all-weather road has been built to the church, general repairs and painting have been done, a new piano, steps, doors, pews, and pulpit have been added, and electricity has been obtained. The church is new on the Shady Grove Circuit.

Since the unification of 1939 the ministers have been as follows: Hillard Howard, 1940-42; Grady Lemmons, 1942-43; E. B. Wilcox, 1943-47; C. F. Brown, 1947-48; W. H. White, 1948-49; Minford Hix, 1949-51; W. M. Stowers, 1951 to the present. The membership has been unsteady but at present is about forty persons who hope to continue serving God and the community.

W. M. STOWERS, *Pastor*

BETHLEHEM

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Bethlehem Methodist Church on the Livingston Circuit in the Cookeville District is located in Overton County. The records of the origin of the church have been misplaced; therefore, the founders and the early church history are unknown. In 1845, near the present church site, the church was housed in a small log house, with R. Eskew as pastor. After the Civil War, a wood structure was built on a plot of ground near the log house. This ground was deeded to the following trustees: Jesse Allen, John H. Lee, and I. L. McCormick by A. Christian and A. Cullom, on Nov. 4, 1876. This building was used for both school and church until about 1894. The church burned on Jan. 20, 1918. Since the log house had been torn away, the church was left without a place to worship. The present building which is a modern brick was erected on the same spot, being completed in 1922.

Through the years the church has stood as a landmark. Many leading and outstanding citizens have worshiped in its sacred sanctuary. The church, as far as can be determined, has sent out one minister, Hudson Paul McCormick. At present, the membership stands at about 80, and the pastor is Ernest Cashdollar.

ERNEST CASHDOLLAR, *Pastor*

MT. PLEASANT

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

It is not certain as to the exact date when the Old Union Church became purely Methodist. An old abandoned graveyard about a quarter of a mile east of the church on the farm of R. H. Holland yields a bit of interesting information about several of the pioneer families; these family names reach back over a period of over 150 years. Our earliest records began in 1850. It was prior to 1850 when there was an old log church here, used as a union preaching place. Here the slaves came with the white people to worship.

In 1850 the present building was erected, remodeled in 1870, Sunday school rooms added in 1925. In December 1952 gas heat was installed in memory of the late Arthur Poole who passed away November 8, 1952.

The earliest records give the family names of: Jones, Jernigan, Crawford, Brodrick, Moss, Marlin.

The following became Local Methodist Preachers from this congregation—Oliver Jones, James Adams, Sam Webster. One hundred and forty-four are on the church roll.

R. E. STEVENSON, *Pastor*

MARTHA'S CHAPEL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Martha's Chapel was organized much over a century ago. Early records were destroyed by fire. Names of the pastors prior to 1856 are unknown. It was originally on the Dover Circuit.

Mrs. Martha Hinson, mother of the Reverends J. G. and Thomas H. Hinson (honored members of the Tennessee Annual Conference), gave the land for the church named for her.

The present building, a typical one-room country church, was erected about fifty-two years ago. The present membership is now fifty-nine and we have good attendance. J. C. ELLIOTT, *Pastor*

CENTER

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The history of the present-day Center Church dates back to 1840. At this time it was known as Holts Campground. It was here that camp meetings were held with people coming from far and near to attend.

In 1887 Center Church was erected in its present location (Fayetteville Highway) on its original nine acres of land which was given by Michael C. Holt in 1840. The new church was built by German Morgan and his son George Morgan, who later became Presiding Elder of this district.

There is no written record as to number of members in the old church as the records were destroyed in a fire when the parsonage burned. The present-day membership is fifty-two. We have record of two ministers from the Center Church, George Morgan and Robert Davis, who will be a student at Martin College next year and is a local preacher.

CHARLES THAXTON, *Pastor*

HARMS

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Very little is known so far as facts are concerned regarding the Harms Methodist Church prior to 1840. Tradition has it that a number of different denominations combined their efforts into a union meeting, coming from great distances in wagons, on horseback, and on foot and camping during the revival meetings. Thus was derived the historic name "Union Camp Ground."

The first building was located one mile northwest of the present

building. The seven acres of land cost \$30.00. The deed was executed August 7, 1839. The first building was erected in 1841. The minutes of a Quarterly Conference held in 1851 show there were eleven appointments on the circuit and the total amount paid the pastor and presiding elder was \$16.05. Of this amount Union Church (Harms) paid \$0.45. (The preachers did not strike for higher wages.)

The old building at Union Camp Ground was damaged by a cyclone in 1888. Soon thereafter a new frame building was erected which was damaged by a severe wind in 1913. The church was moved to Harms and in 1915 the present brick structure was erected and the name was changed to Harms Methodist Church. Rev. L. W. Stewart was the pastor and Rev. H. B. Reams was the Presiding Elder.

MRS. R. M. COLEMAN, *Historian*

WAVERLY

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The first Methodist church of Humphreys County was erected in 1806 at the site of Reynoldsburg on the Tennessee River. The building was of logs with puncheon floor and pole roof. It was the first church of any denomination in the county and was served by Rev. John Kirkland.

The first conference record of a Waverly church was published by John B. M'Ferrin, D.D., in Volume III of *History of Methodism in Tennessee*. In the appendix listing churches and their pastors, he lists, "Waverly Mission, George E. Young." The mission was assigned to the Paris District in that year but in 1840, following the organization of the Memphis Conference, Waverly was assigned to the Clarksville District as it is at the present time.

In the same volume, describing the twenty-eighth session of the Tennessee Conference at Nashville on October 9, 1839, he lists George E. Young as a young preacher being admitted on trial. This was the year when Methodists were celebrating "The Centenary of Methodism." The members were greatly honored by a visit to the conference by General Andrew Jackson, ex-President of the United States. In a written report the author states, "George E. Young, . . . have passed from the knowledge of the author."

Though the author had lost track of the young preacher, George E. Young was perhaps the first of the numerous circuit riders of the Methodist Church who traveled the hills and valleys of Humphreys County carrying their testaments, songbooks, wearing apparel, and what not in old-fashioned saddlebags, thrown across their saddles. Their visits were ones of great rejoicing as they tended the spiritual needs of their people.

Fifty years after Waverly was first laid out, the first Methodist church was erected under the able leadership of John W. Hensley as pastor. It was dedicated on April 11, 1886, by Rev. Dr. J. B. West. It was a two-story affair, with the second floor being owned and used by the Masonic Lodge. The lot, then as now, located on West Main Street, was sold and deeded to the then trustees of the church, Col. V. S. Allen, Mrs. Drummond, and Dr. W. M. Slayden, by A. S. Edwards.

During the fifty years before, Methodists had worshiped in a brick union building, located on Church Street, which had been erected in 1847. It was a joint endeavor, being used by all the churches and the Masons for their meetinghouse.

The present church was remodeled in 1902 by lowering the second floor of the old building to form the first floor of the sanctuary. A steeple and two entrance wings were added and the basement was remodeled for Sunday school rooms. Majestic stained-glass windows were installed. The church stands today without further change since that time. Will Allen Turner, pastor, was the inspiration for the remodeling program.

In the belfry hangs a bell of unique and interesting history. Quoting from a loving memoir of Dr. W. W. Slayden, he states, "The bell was brought from the North during the Civil War to Johnsonville on a Federal gunboat and was used as a gunboat bell. The fleet of boats were attacked from the west side of the river by Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and his brave and dashing band of cavalrymen. They were completely routed and set on fire as they floated down the river and it was down in Stewart County that this particular boat sank.

"Some Stewart Countians pillaged the boat, taking off, among other things, this bell and buried it in the sand. After the war was over, it was sold to the Masonic Lodge at Waverly and was first swung in the belfry of the little union brick church on Church Street. When the Masons and Methodists built a combination church and Masonic hall, the bell was brought over to the new building. In 1902, upon remodeling of the present church, the bell was purchased by the Methodists and still can be heard calling people to worship."

Though no physical changes have been made in the building throughout the past fifty-two years, some small additions have been added inside. The women of the church have equipped a modern kitchen in the basement and the church now owns a Hammond electric organ and carillon bells in the belfry.

In 1949, during the pastorate of C. F. Belew, the congregation had increased to such a size that it was deemed necessary to build a new church and educational building. The first step in the long-range plan was the erection of a seventeen-room brick building, containing

Sunday school rooms, the pastor's study, nursery and a small chapel, furnished and dedicated to the memory of Clint B. Jones. The building was completed in October 1951.

An active building program, spurred by the present pastor, Virgil Tipps, is now underway. The plans for a new sanctuary are being studied and a tentative date of early spring 1955 was set by the congregation for the ground-breaking of the new building. It will be of red brick with colonial columns at the front. The stained-glass windows will be remodeled and used in the new building, as will the historic bell. The seating capacity of the church will be increased by one third.

Throughout the past century the Waverly Methodist Church has wielded a positive influence for good not only in the past, but continues to do so at the present. It has a growing congregation in a growing community and counts among its members many prominent civic leaders.

KATHRYN S. NELSON, *Historian*

GRANVILLE

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Granville Methodist Church was organized in the year 1840. The original location was two blocks from the present location. The property was originally owned by Mr. Mark Holleman, who erected the building.

On October 25, 1872, a different lot was purchased from David J. Shepherd, administrator for the heirs of James M. Shepherd, for the purchase price of \$30. Trustees of the church at the time of the purchase of this lot on Clover Street were F. A. Kelley, Z. T. Brown, and R. P. Maddux.

This church building was rebuilt and dedicated in the summer of 1896 under the pastorate of M. N. Ford. The Presiding Elder was Tom Fisher.

The church was redecorated during the pastorate of Walter E. Schaerer. During the pastorate of the present pastor, I. B. Pennington, Jr., a Sunday school annex of three rooms was built and other improvements made.

The enrollment at the time of organization cannot be accurately determined, but it has gradually grown to the present membership of 109. The church is made up of determined and consecrated Christians determined to strive onward and upward in the work of Christ's Kingdom.

I. B. PENNINGTON, *Pastor*

HOPEWELL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Hopewell Methodist Church was organized and the deed was recorded January 1840. The present frame building is the third building. The first two buildings were of logs.

During the first few years of the life of this church the membership was good and the church prospered. But as time went on, because of various reasons the membership began to decline. Eventually the church service was decreased to once a month and Sunday school ceased.

There are two pastors now, Rev. H. Clyde Brake and Rev. James L. Beaty. Rev. Brake has reorganized Sunday school and there are church services twice a month. The membership has increased.

H. CLYDE BRAKE, *Pastor*

MOUNT UNION

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

An old log cabin stood on the present church lot which was used for church and school purposes in 1860. The date of erection is unknown but it must have been as far back as 1840 or earlier. It became Mount Union Methodist Church in 1894—sixty-one years ago. A. B. Taylor was the first pastor as a distinctive Methodist church. J. S. Moore, Jesse Hooten, and J. T. White were also early pastors. The log cabin was torn down and a frame building was erected in 1910. This building was used for twenty-nine years when in 1939 the present building was erected. The land was donated by Isaac Jaquess.

The first trustees of the church when it became an organized Methodist church in 1894 were: Joseph G. Jaquess, M. M. Jaquess, James Letner, J. Y. Farmer, and John Fleming. The present membership is fifty-two with an average attendance of fifty. It is a small but very active church. As an organized Methodist church it is only sixty-one years old. However, Methodists have worshiped here at least for a 115 years or longer.

A. C. COBBLE, *Pastor*

FORT DONELSON

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

According to reliable records in a Bible on display in the Fort Donelson Museum a congregation of Methodists organized in Dover as early as 1840, using a crude frame building as a house of worship.

Some of the founders of this church were Billy Weaks and wife, Judge Monroe Scarborough and wife, Rebecca Lewis Smith, the families of Isaac Crow and John Robertson. In 1863 the church burned during the battle of Fort Donelson. A pulpit Bible of historic interest was carried away to Pennsylvania. A noble woman recovered the Bible and mailed it back to Dover. This church was named Dover Methodist Church.

As soon as possible another building was erected to replace the original one. It, too, was known as Dover Methodist Church. Another crude frame structure, it was used as both a church and a school building. One of the earliest circuit riders to serve this church was Rev. Rowland.

In 1897 the church building was torn down to be replaced by a more beautiful and more adequate sanctuary. The name of the church was changed to Fort Donelson Memorial Methodist Church. Its windows of stained glass in lovely colors were some of the most impressive to be found. The contractor for this building was John L. Walden. The building committee consisted of Dr. J. G. Steger, F. H. Osborne, Capt. E. G. Sexton, E. T. Peck, and G. W. McElroy.

In 1915 Dr. Henry L. Crow became Sunday school superintendent and still serves in that capacity loyally and faithfully, having been absent very few Sundays.

In 1917 Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Joiner joined the membership of Methodists of Dover. A history of this church would be incomplete



Fort Donelson

without a tribute to these noble members who loved the church and were examples of true stewardship, devoted and consecrated to the church and its cause throughout their lifetime.

During the pastorate of Rev. W. J. Fesmire a modern three-bedroom parsonage with full-size basement was erected in 1948 at a cost of \$7,000. Soon after completion of the new parsonage, disaster struck the church building Tuesday, November 23, 1948, when it was destroyed by fire. In spite of a heavy financial load work was begun on a new church edifice in the early fall of 1949 and finished in the summer of 1950. It is a beautiful building, full-size downstairs, large balcony and modern heating equipment. The sanctuary will seat 340. The total cost including furnishings and heating plant was between forty and fifty thousand dollars. "The building is said to be one of the most adequate to be found in any small town in Middle Tennessee." What appeared to be a tragedy when the old building was destroyed by fire now seems to have been a blessing.

JAMES L. BEATY, *Pastor*

MOUNT PLEASANT

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Mount Pleasant Methodist Church is located in the eighth civil district of Montgomery County, about eight miles southwest of Clarksville.

The first church, a log building, was built in the early 1800's and was used as a meeting place and as a school until the early 1850's.

The present church is of brick. The bricks with which the church was built were made near the church by slave labor. According to the best information, it was built in 1853, by Mr. Lem Cherry. The following year Mr. Cherry built Liberty Presbyterian Church.

The records show in March 21, 1838, a sale between Joseph Barns, of one part, and John Ogburn, of the other part, both of Montgomery County, Tennessee, sold a certain parcel of land: GRANTED Evans Blair, on the 27th day of June, 1826, being in the county of Montgomery, State of Tennessee. This tract of land containing 130 acres for \$50.00, on which Mount Pleasant meeting house and burying ground is located.

JOSEPH BARNs, *Seal*

WITNESS:

WILLIAM VAUGHN

THOMAS OGBURN (Book R, page 233.)

Deed to Mount Pleasant Church by V. Ogburn, June 4, 1858.

JOSEPH DICKSON, *Seal*

Book 6, page 606.

Trustees of Mount Pleasant Church at time the church was deeded: A. E. Brown, James M. Brown, Joseph Grant, Robert Davis, John M. Malone, E. T. Swift, and John Roberts.

There are monuments in the Mount Pleasant graveyard that date from 1814, 1818, and 1819, up to the present time. There are veterans of all the wars from Revolutionary War up to World War I buried there.

Present trustees are J. S. Shelton, Eugene Martin, Irving Smith. Mrs. J. S. Shelton is Treasurer, Mr. Ragsdale Harris is Church School Superintendent, and Mr. Walter Harris is Lay Leader. Reverend Frank Ferguson is pastor.

J. S. SHELTON, *Historian*

LEATHERWOOD

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

For several years prior to 1859, probably as early as 1840, there was a Methodist church in the community of Leatherwood. The church building was a log structure and was used for both church and school purposes. In 1859, Mr. William Newcomb deeded a small tract of land on the south side of Leatherwood Creek to C. C. Hudson, John C. Gracy, and A. J. Wilson as Trustees upon which a Methodist church was to be erected. Very likely on account of the Civil War that soon broke out, the church was not built. Therefore, in 1868 when the people began to recover from the effects of the Civil War, Mr. William Newcomb gave a second deed for about the same tract of land to the following trustees: John W. Webb, John C. Gracy, and George W. Bratton. Soon after the execution of the deed the church building was erected. It is the building now in use and is in a very good state of preservation.

In the eighty-seven years of its history, Leatherwood Methodist Church has been shifted from pastoral charge to pastoral charge and from district to district. In 1878, it belonged to the Santa Fe Circuit in the Centerville District; later it was on the Shady Grove Circuit in the Dickson District; at one time it was on the Mount Pleasant Circuit in the Franklin District; with the exception of a few years during and after World War II, it has been on the Little Lot Circuit in the Mount Pleasant District.

Of the many pastors who have served this church, probably the most colorful was Rev. John H. Nichols. He is still remembered by the older members for his strong doctrinal preaching, his pamphlets on The Curry Comb, the Grubbing Hoe and others. He is also remembered for his horse trading.

Rev. Fort Fowler, President of Martin College, preached one of his early sermons in Leatherwood Methodist Church.

H. H. BOEHMS, *Historian*

WOLF RIVER

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Methodist Church was organized at Wolf River about 1840, in a small schoolhouse about seventy-five yards from the present church building. Rev. A. B. Wright, who was one of the pioneer preachers in Fentress County, united with the church here October 1, 1843. Following were a few of the early members: Cornelius M. Frogge, "Uncle" John Pile, and William Pile, the grandson of Conrad Pile.

In the later part of 1880, there arose a need for a larger and more suitable place for worship. Mrs. Nancy Brooks, the grandmother of the world famous Sgt. Alvin C. York, and her sister, Polly Pile, donated the land for the new church building. The logs for the lumber were donated by E. J. W. Williams, S. H. Pile, J. C. Wright, William West, A. B. Williams and others. Most of the logs were converted into lumber at the Sabe Choate sawmill by George Crabtree and Randal Harding. The building was erected by Henry Wilson. Mrs. E. J. Williams provided his room and board during the period of construction. The lumber in the building was planed by hand. The building was finished in 1889. The Rev. J. V. Brown, known as Uncle Jackie Brown, was one of the first pastors of the new church. Rev. R. Y. Burks was one of the most noted evangelists in this area.

The Wolf River Methodist Church has the distinction of being the place where Sgt. Alvin C. York and Pastor R. C. Pile were converted.

We pay tribute in this historical manuscript to the faithful service rendered the church, formerly known as Mt. Union Methodist Church, by F. A. Williams, C. C. Frogge, S. R. Williams, Lewis Polston, Dr. Alexander, Dudley Pile, Martin Crouch, E. J. Williams, George York, J. C. Wright, and William West. We also wish to recognize the faithful attendance upon the services in this church of Henry York and Joe York, brothers of Sgt. Alvin C. York, and his sister, Mrs. Lillie Stewart, Mrs. Joe York, Mrs. Alva York, secretary of the church school for approximately twenty years, Mrs. Alvie Brooks, who has served so faithfully as superintendent of the church school for many years, Mrs. Ella Conatser, who has attended regularly despite the fact that she had to walk over three miles of

mountain road. The present superintendent of the church school is Mrs. Walton Pile. Our present church membership is small, only twenty members, with thirty-five enrolled in the Sunday school. We love The Methodist Church and endeavor to be faithful as good stewards.

MRS. WALTON PILE, *Historian*

MT. PLEASANT

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

We do not know the exact date of the organization of Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church. The records show that August, 1846, Rev. S. D. Guinn received Sarah A. Carden into the church on profession of faith. (She may have been the mother of Rev. T. A. Carden of the Tennessee Conference who was received on trial in 1888 and died in 1922.) Rev. Felix Johnson received William L. Carden and eight others into the church on profession of faith August 26, 1888.

It was not until August 26, 1872, that a deed to the property was secured. The old building which was in use when the deed to the property was given in 1872 was torn down and replaced with a new concrete block structure in 1946, during the pastorate of Rev. P. A. Kerby. The church has a membership of sixty with an evergreen church school of forty members.

JAMES E. EDDING, *Pastor*

FRIENDSHIP

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

In 1842 Rev. Joe Smith, who was an uncle of the venerable T. J. Smith, organized and built the Buckeye Methodist Church on the headwater of Buckeye Branch. The building was used for both church and school purposes. In the course of time this log building was torn down and replaced by a frame building. The name was changed to Friendship. In 1908, it was remodeled and enlarged. It was damaged by a storm. In 1928, it was torn down and moved a mile and half south and rebuilt at the Waggoner cemetery which was more accessible for automobiles. This building was also blown down during a storm and rebuilt in 1941.

One of the early pastors of Friendship was the old-time gospel preacher who will never be forgotten in this area, Rev. Jack Shasteen who served the church about 1880. Some of the early founders were

Jimmy Bedford who gave the land, Billy Locke, Wyley Hobbs, Lodrich Robertson, and John F. Baxter. This was the home church of Rev. A. J. Davis who united with the Tennessee Conference in 1919 and was later the District Superintendent of the church.

JOE F. BAXTER, *Historian*

JACOB'S HILL

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

In 1842 Dawson Hancock gave six acres of land in the twenty-first district of Wilson County on which to build a Methodist church. The church, built of cedar logs, was a square house with puncheon floor. E. R. Russell, Wesley Hancock, William Warren, Stephen Hearn, and Simon Hancock were the first trustees of the church. Jacob Hearn, a Methodist preacher, dedicated the church and it was named for him—Jacob's Hill. Pastors of this church were Russell Eskew, Burkett Ferrell, Ledbetter, Fountain E. Pitts, Jackson, Gray and Bellamy. This building was sold to the Negroes when the present building was erected in 1871 and dedicated by Bishop Pierce.

The names of the pastors since 1871 are as follows: J. J. Pitman, R. P. Gray, Bellamy, G. L. Staly, John Williams, H. L. Ledbetter, J. J. Pitman, T. S. Cullum, W. D. Cherry, J. T. Reagen, J. W. Garies, C. E. Heriges, M. A. Byers, W. T. Powers, H. B. McNeil, W. T. Dyer, B. T. Smotherman, W. H. Baird, J. T. Kellem, E. F. Hudgons, H. W. Carter, John Ensor, J. W. Swann, W. M. Lanthrip, J. R. Simpson, Allen Miller, O. P. Gentry, Oman Charles, T. M. Wilson, R. C. Crosslin, J. M. Putman, A. R. Hogan, George Douglas, G. L. Hensley, S. A. Bass, R. M. Johnson, R. S. Qualls, T. R. Poole, C. F. Brown, Bob Lanuis, Carter Johnson, and R. T. Clifford.

JOHN B. MOOREHEAD, *Pastor*

MALLORYS

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Mallorys was a part of the old Asbury Circuit. The earliest record we can find is from the diary of the Rev. S. C. Brewer who rode the circuit in 1842. He records the following twelve churches in his circuit and gives one complete round of services: Andrews—Whites 50, Blacks 4; Bakers—Whites 44, Blacks 7; Bethlehem—Whites 90, Blacks 2; Cliftons—Whites 80, Blacks 0; Leeland—Whites 12, Blacks 6; Mallorys—Whites 72, Blacks 14; Mt. Carmel—Whites 62, Blacks 9; Pisgah—Whites 40, Blacks 4; Powder Mills—Whites 10, Blacks 0;

Sanders—Whites 8, Blacks 0; Shaws—Whites 54, Blacks 41; Whitworths—Whites 33, Blacks 1.

Schedule of services: Bethlehem—Sunday, Octo. 29; Sanders, Wednesday, Nov. 1; Whitworths—Friday, Nov. 3; Mallorys, Sunday, Nov. 5; Cliftons—Tuesday, Nov. 7; Leeland, Thursday, Nov. 9; Shaws—Saturday, Nov. 11; Powder Mills, Sunday, Nov. 12; Mt. Carmel—Tuesday, Nov. 14; Andrews, Thursday, Nov. 16; Bakers, Saturday, Nov. 18; Pisgah, Sunday, Nov. 19. One week's rest.

There have been three buildings in the history of the church, all three on the same hill but on different sites. We have not found, to date, a record of how the original site was acquired as the old church records were burned in a fire which destroyed the home of one of the church officers. In 1889 more ground was bought from G. P. Mallory, a descendant of James Mallory, who settled at Thomasville in 1808. The name *Mallorys* honors this family.

The first building was a small one-room structure made of logs. When this was outgrown, a one-room frame building was erected not too far from the first. The log building was then used as a schoolhouse. About 1870 the frame building showed signs of deterioration. The trustees, W. T. Garrett, W. B. Link, and J. M. Shaw, contracted with Elijah Black, a painstaking carpenter and cabinetmaker, to build a large one-room church. Volunteers helped him as needed. In 1952 an annex consisting of a recreation basement and kitchen and six Sunday school rooms was added, and at present, volunteer workmen are constructing a modernized pulpit, choir loft, and altar rail.

In past years Mallorys has been connected with Brewers Chapel, Cliftons and Neptune. The present circuit is Pleasantview and Mallorys.

Two preachers have gone out from this church—the Rev. T. T. Frazier, retired, and the Rev. J. W. Jarrell, Jr., who is serving his first pastorate.

Present church officers: Rev. Charles Scragg, Pastor; W. D. Hicks, Treasurer; Felix Hunter, Church School Superintendent; Miss Ola Hunter, President, W.S.C.S.; Horace Jarrell and Wife, Youth Directors; Mrs. Earl Hewitt, Pianist.

Board of Stewards: W. H. Brewer, Chairman; R. P. Baggett, C. O. Gossett, Horace Jarrell, Earl Hewitt, W. D. Hicks, Vaughn Fielder, G. M. Fox, Felix Hunter.

Trustees: W. H. Brewer, W. D. Hicks, C. O. Gossett, G. M. Fox, Felix Hunter.

MISS OLA HUNTER
MISS REBECCA WILLIAMS
Historians

HISTORY OF METHODIST CHURCHES AND
SHILOAH
COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The first church house was erected in 1842. (The church must have been organized about that time.) It was built on a flat near the branch called Turkey Creek. The house was a hewn log structure with two doors, one on the side and one in the rear of the building. Only one window, a small square one at the rear, gave the preacher light. The pulpit was a small square box affair. In 1843, a large arbor was built where the church now stands. Living quarters were built of split logs on the site which is now the graveyard. All this was done in preparation for a great revival conducted by Rev. Thomas A. Young and Rev. John W. Phillips.

In 1859, the large arbor was torn down and the building now in use was erected. Mr. George Beck was the contractor. The shingles for the roof were made by James Gill. Twenty years later the Masonic Hall was erected as a second story for the church. In 1922 or 1923, the Masonic Hall was removed and the building repaired during the pastorate of Rev. C. B. Cook.

Shiloah has a membership of 115 and fifty-four in Sunday school. Rev. Ezell Harrison, Jr., is our pastor.

J. H. HAMPTON, *Historian*

PALMYRA
CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The Palmyra Methodist Church was organized in the year 1842, near the present site of Palmyra school. Its first pastor was the Rev. Mark Grey. This building was used for both whites and slaves. It was burned during the Civil War, 1862. Following this, for some ten years services were held in a small one-room school.

The second Methodist church was built where the home of A. C. Broome now stands. Mr. Perry Williamson, then one of two stewards (the other Douglas Powers), bought the land from his brother Burril Williamson for the sum of one dollar. This building had an amen corner, a pulpit, a mourners' bench, a ladies' side, a men's side, and a pew in the rear for the colored members, one front door, and homemade pews. It also had a room upstairs used by the Masons. It had two stile blocks for horseback riders. It also had a hitching rack. A cistern was dug which is still in use.

The present church was built in the year 1918 on part of the original property owned by Burril Williamson. Enough land was also purchased for a cemetery.

Bishop Lambuth was present when the cornerstone was laid. Bishop DuBose dedicated the new building. This building has six-Sunday school rooms and a sanctuary.

Rev. I. W. Keathley was the pastor when the new edifice was constructed. Among some of the early pastors was Brother Stampers who, when asked why he preached so loud as the Lord was not deaf, replied, "No but God is a long way from Palmyra." Other ministers who served this circuit are: Ray Shay, Bouldin, Patterson, Woodard, Williams, Longsdon, Folks, Benton, Lovell, Hawkins, Johnson, Coleman, Roberts, Taylor, Crawford, Belew, Elliot, Kelly, Buckner, J. B. Choate.

GLEN A. MURRELL, *Pastor*

SADLERSVILLE

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Salem Church (name later changed to Sadlersville Methodist Church) is in the 17th district of Robertson County.

It was organized in 1843 with the following members: Mr. and Mrs. Findley Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shanklin, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Williams, Mr. and Mrs. James T. Gunn, Mr. and Mrs. H. Sadler, Richard Qualls and daughter, Mrs. Tabitha Williamson, and W. R. Sadler, and Mrs. Elizabeth Sadler and their families.

When the building was erected, it stood in Montgomery County, but a change in the line in 1870 threw it into Robertson County.

The first minister was the Rev. George Dye.

When the building needed repair, the membership decided to erect a new building nearer the little village of Sadlersville, so the present site was selected and Mrs. Martha Coke gave the lot.

On July 13, 1886, the cornerstone was laid and an impressive service was conducted by the pastor, Rev. C. L. Smith and Rev. J. G. Gwynne.

It was finished and dedicated in 1889 by Dr. J. B. West.

In recent years the name was changed from Salem to Sadlersville as there is another church of the same name in the Clarksville District.

In 1943 the church celebrated its one hundredth anniversary with a homecoming and an impressive service conducted by the District Superintendent, B. B. Pennington and the pastor, Rev. George Davenport. Dr. E. P. Anderson preached at the eleven o'clock hour.

The Church has had a fruitful ministry. Some of its former pastors, now deceased were: Robert Craig, W. H. Johnston, George W. Dye, J. G. Gwynne, B. H. Johnson, James W. Faires, William Klyce, John S. Rice, B. T. Smotherman, W. T. S. Cook, George Beall, O. P.

Hill, H. B. Reams, C. L. Smith, J. L. Taylor, J. G. Harper, Frank Hawkins, and W. O. Crawford, and John Hensley.

The following all of whom are now living, have served as pastors, J. T. Blackwood, Eugene Lovell, W. L. Armstrong, Haskell Henry, George Davenport, W. C. Westenberger, George Baxter and Charles Kunselman.

The present pastor is John W. Kelly.

The names and activities of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Matthews have been closely associated with the ongoing of the Church for the past fifty years, Mrs. Matthews having served as Sunday school superintendent for twenty-five years.

Twice during the early part of the century the tall spire was struck by lightning but the building still stands in a grove of stately oaks saying to all passers-by "This is the House of God."

MRS. J. T. MATTHEWS

MRS. BUFORD ROSSON

Historians

CORNERVILLE

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The early history of the Cornersville Methodist Church is found in the authentic minutes of the Masonic Lodge. This states a class of Methodist believers existed as early as 1846 in this community. Albert G. Kelly, who was admitted to the Conference in 1843, was active in the first work of the church in Cornersville.

From the same source records state that the cornerstone of the original brick building was laid July 23, 1852. The ground floor was to be used as the Church with the upper story as a Masonic hall. This same structure has been in use more than a century as a Methodist church in this community.

James R. McClure and William G. Hensley were two early pastors serving the charge prior to 1854.

At a meeting of the Tennessee Annual Conference on October 27, 1852, the Murfreesboro District was formed and the Cornersville Methodist Church became a part of the Fayetteville Circuit. The Cornersville Church membership at this time was sixty members both white and colored. In 1856 the membership consisted of eighty-five, eighteen of whom were on probation and twenty-five of whom were colored. The membership in 1954 was 172.

Due to the Civil War, the Tennessee Annual Conference was held in Cornersville on October 15, 1862. Nashville had fallen into the hands of the Union Army and this particular location seemed most satisfactory at that time. The Bishop scheduled to preside could

not be present because of the hostilities. Therefore the conference elected Dr. John B. McFerrin as president.

Highlighting its history of those who have served God in many capacities is Dr. W. B. Nance who went from this church into missionary work in China where he served for a period of fifty years.

On August 3, 1952, the membership of the Cornersville Methodist Church held a centennial celebration. Many old members were present including Dr. W. B. Nance, the guest speaker, who had recently returned from China. A new organ was dedicated at this service.

During 1954 plans were formulated for extensive repair to the original building prayerfully hoping that it may serve God for another century.

N. O. ALLEN, *Pastor*

BEECH GROVE

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

March 10, 1946, Bishop Frances J. McConnell of New York City delivered the dedicatory sermon of Beech Grove Methodist Church. Rev. Herbert S. McConnell of the Tennessee Conference was pastor. Rev. W. C. Morehead, a former pastor, shared in the program of dedication.

Beech Grove Methodist Church was organized in 1843. The original church was Hugh's Chapel which stood on Cavewater Road at Marcus Tucker and Clyde Bradford line. The congregation moved to a more central location and occupied a one-room log schoolhouse two and one-half miles north of Hugh's Chapel. A building lot was purchased from Hudson Heirs upon which a one-room frame building was erected.

It became necessary after seventy-five years to erect a new church building. The old school property was purchased at Hueghy, materials from the old church and school were salvaged and rocks were obtained from a quarry. The ground was broken July 17, 1844, by Rev. W. C. Morehead. Practically all the labor was done by men and women working side by side until the building was completed in 1845 with all indebtedness paid. This church building stands as a monument to the Christians of this community and their faith in God. Rev. Ezell Harrison, Jr., is our pastor.

MRS. M. H. BARNES, *Historian*

SAVANNAH

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The Methodist church in Savannah, Tennessee, was begun soon after the General Conference in New York in 1844. The families



Savannah—First Church

of W. H. Cherry, James Irwin, L. H. Broyles, David Robinson, Wright Williams, D. H. Robinson, William Russell, and possibly others composed the charter members. Trustees of the new church were elected as follows: J. H. Broyles, James Irwin, William Russell, W. H. Cherry, and David Robinson. The new church first appeared in the General Minutes in 1846 as the Savannah Circuit. Rev. Fielding H. Harris and Rev. Nathaniel W. Overall were assigned as pastors at the end of the year. The Circuit reported a membership of 600 whites and thirty colored.

In 1847 a deed was made to a large building lot for a church and parsonage. Soon thereafter a building was erected on this lot which was regularly used until the battle of Shiloh eight miles up the river, April 6 and 7, 1862. Following this major battle the church was used as an improvised hospital for some time. In the meantime the pastor, Rev. W. H. Browning, entered the Confederate Army as a chaplain in the 51st infantry. In the early 1870's the old building was damaged by a thunderbolt. A beautiful building was erected in 1874 under the pastorate of Rev. P. A. Sowell. The auditorium, with modifications, is still in use.

Rev. Cullen T. Carter, one of the former pastors of the church, was converted in the parsonage of the church during the ministry of Rev. J. J. Stowe, June 3, 1901. Rev. J. W. Cherry, one of the truly great preachers in the Tennessee Conference, entered the ministry from the Savannah Methodist Church. The first six pastors after the present sanctuary was erected in 1874 were as follows: Rev. Payton A. Sowell, October, 1873; Rev. R. R. Jones, October, 1876; Rev. H. S. McBride, October, 1877; Rev. S. G. Cain, October, 1879; Rev. Lewis Powell, October, 1883.

Hardin College, Savannah, Tennessee, was not listed as a Methodist institution; however it sustained a close relation to the Tennessee Annual Conference. W. D. Will who was a son of Rev. J. C. Will and who was an A.M. graduate from Southern University, Alabama, was president of the College. The first commencement was conducted June 24, 1880. One hundred and twenty-six matriculated and of this number three were in the first graduating class—Miss Ida Paine, Miss Annie Irwin (wife of Rev. J. W. Cherry) and Miss Jennie Edwards of Linden, Tenn.

RUSSELL BOAZ, *Pastor*

MARBLE HILL

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Marble Hill Methodist Church was in existence as early as 1844 and probably earlier. It was first known as Wiseman's Chapel and

later became Moore's Chapel and at a later date was changed to Marble Hill. The original building was a large two-story structure. It had a large back porch or shed where the slaves worshiped. We suppose the second story was used by the Masons. Often both races worshiped at the same hour and their music and prayers to say nothing of sermons could be heard for miles around in the quiet hills and valleys. Early trustees were Lem Brandon, Pascol Cole, James M. Frame, Robert C. Wiseman and Marvin O. Wiseman. August 6, 1859, Allen Johnston and his wife Josephine Johnston deeded one acre of land for the church. Some of the early pastors were Allen Johnston, Allen Tribble, Dr. Sharp, and in later years J. F. Beasley and S. J. Shasteen served the church. Rev. J. C. Sandusky is our present pastor who serves the Lynchburg Circuit with seven appointments—Brandon's Chapel, Friendship, Lynchburg, Marble Hill, Pleasant Hill, Smith Chapel, and Union.

The present church building was erected in 1891-92 at a cost of \$2,000. The building has been improved through the years. It is now beautifully ceiled with sheetrock, three new classrooms erected, gas heat and electric lighting installed. The Sunday school is "ever green." Mr. J. H. Osborne is the superintendent. The school has an enrollment of about ninety. The church has a membership of 123. M. G. Harrison, R. A. Wilkes, J. E. Gray, Record Milsaps, and J. H. Osborne compose the board of stewards.

MRS. TRIXIE HARRISON, *Historian*

MARTIN'S CHAPEL

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

For over a century Martin's Chapel has been a house of worship for the people of the southern part of Robertson County. Since 1845, a Methodist church has stood on the land given by Charles Bidwell and Green Ellis for church, school, and cemetery. A log building served as the first church and was known as Well's Valley. In 1879 the present frame structure was dedicated and given the name Martin's Chapel in honor of the Reverend Garrett W. Martin, who was pastor at that time. Brother Martin was raised within the bounds of the Red River Circuit, served as Presiding Elder of the Dover District in 1845, and preached at Martin's Chapel the Christmas before his death on February 2, 1894. The Sunday school rooms were built in 1937.

Martin's Chapel was a part of the Red River Circuit in 1845 but was changed to the Oakwood Circuit in 1905. The name of this circuit was changed to Joelton in 1932 and Martin's is at present still one of the four churches on the Joelton Circuit.

Even more numerous are the changes in district. Martin's Chapel began in the Clarksville District in 1845, was changed to the McKendree District in 1869, returned to the Clarksville District in 1873. Then in 1910 Martin's was placed in the Gallatin District, but went back to Clarksville in 1924 where it remained until 1927 when it was put in the Gallatin District again. In 1932 Martin's became a part of the Cumberland District where it has remained until the present time.

From the members of Martin's Chapel have come five preachers: D. E. Hinkle, C. C. Hinkle, W. J. Wilson, Buist Wilson, and F. F. Moore.

DOYLE MASTERS, *Pastor*

ANDREW PRICE MEMORIAL

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Sometime prior to 1850 about fifty Methodists began meeting together for worship in McWhirter's Tavern. Shortly thereafter they erected a log building near Stone's River at the foot of Todd's Knob. For almost a quarter of a century they worshiped at this place under the name of the McWhirter M. E. Church, South. By 1870, having outgrown the log building, the congregation built a two-story frame structure on Donelson Pike across the street and somewhat south of the present Donelson Elementary School. Dr. E. E. Buchanan donated the land and the second story was used for a while by the Masonic Lodge.

The continued growth of both the church and the community led to a third location. In 1904 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Price, owners of the fine Clover Bottom Farm, gave a two-acre plot on which was constructed the present sanctuary soon thereafter. Jere Bowen, J. E. Shelton, R. S. Phillips, John M. Powell, and John F. Logue composed the building committee. In 1907 the name of the church was changed from the above to the Price Memorial M. E. Church, South. In 1922 an addition behind the sanctuary provided more Sunday school rooms and a basement with a large social room. Mrs. Andrew Price made a substantial donation toward the building of the annex, and in 1938 gave the pipe organ which is still in use. At this time at the request of Mrs. Price the name of the church was further changed to read the Andrew Price Memorial Methodist Church.

After World War II the Donelson community began a very rapid growth. To meet the demands of the growing church, in 1948 a new wing was added to the east side. Also a new heating system was installed as well as a larger kitchen. This was not enough space for long and in 1954 the first floor of a large educational annex was

erected directly behind the existing building. In 1955 the second story was completed along with a connecting arcade to the existing building. The completed plant is now occupied and the church is still growing. The church has an enrollment of 970 and the Sunday school enrollment is 1,242. The estimated value of the church plant is \$170,000.

R. L. FREEMAN, *Pastor*

JAMESTOWN

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Jamestown, Tennessee, first known as Sand Springs, became an incorporated town in 1823, the year Fentress County was established. As early as 1817 Methodist services had been held in the homes by a Methodist preacher, Timothy Carpenter. Organized Methodism dates as far back as 1845. Under the leadership of Rev. Robert Hall, pastor 1918-23, Jamestown Methodists acquired their first building. It was an unfinished building which the Baptists had begun. The deed, made to S. E. Frogge, B. W. Bowden, and J. N. Clark, Methodist trustees, was secured from the Baptists for the consideration of \$108.26 cash plus the payment of \$250 to the Baptist Home Mission Board. This first building completed, the Methodists began worshipping in their own building in 1922. On March 8, 1930, the deed for adjacent property was granted to W. E. Taylor, J. W. Evans, Mrs. W. J. Gaudin, and Mrs. J. G. Wright, Methodist trustees, by H. B. and Iris Lester for the consideration of \$390.

Looking toward the erection of a new building, the Quarterly Conference, January 13, 1946, appointed a building committee composed of D. O. Beaty, Mrs. Kirby Johnson, Chester Looper, J. P. Sloan, and C. B. Winton, Treasurer. On the same date Herlon Dalton, W. P. Delk, O. O. Frogge, Mrs. Chester Looper, and Mrs. J. P. Sloan were appointed as a Finance Committee for the project. In 1949 the cornerstone was laid for the present building of block and stone, which was erected during the pastorate of Rev. R. S. Lee, 1945-50.

Since the pastorate of Rev. Robert Hall, 1919-23, under whose leadership the first Methodist property was secured, the following pastors have served: J. W. Madewell, 1923-25; A. K. Hankins, 1925-28; H. H. Cash, 1928-29; J. Paul Rowland, 1929-31; C. B. Smith, 1931-38; Charles J. Hawkins, 1938-40; R. B. Rawls, 1940-41; B. H. Parker, 1941-44; J. W. Brooks, 1944-45; R. S. Lee, 1945-50; M. E. Thompson, 1950-51; Robert Lewis, 1951-53; J. N. Wilson, 1953-55; Kenneth Wilkerson, June-August, 1955; J. H. Gardner, 1955-

JACOB H. GARDNER, *Pastor*

NEW CHAPEL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The church which now bears the name New Chapel had for its first name Old Dutch Chapel. It was organized in an old log house about one-half mile north of the first New Chapel church which now stands on the old Coopertown road. The community was of predominantly Dutch descent. Date of organization is not known. The congregation worshiped in this building until 1868.

A new building was erected and the deed was made to the following trustees: G. W. Morris, John Crockett, Thomas Cobb, Jas. W. Darden, John W. Murphey, James Cobb, Jas. M. Binkley, Green Cohea, and Geo. M. Fizer. The congregation worshiped in this building until 1908.

In the summer of 1908 a new building was erected. It was completed and dedicated in September, 1908, by Bishop H. M. DuBose, with the Rev. J. W. Hensley, pastor, in charge. The church at this time was called New Chapel. The building still stands on the old Coopertown road and the congregation worshiped in this church until 1948. In April, 1948, the erection of a new church was begun with completion in November, 1948. This beautiful brick structure is still called New Chapel and is located two miles southwest of Springfield on Highway 49. The church was dedicated on March 29, 1953, by Bishop Roy Short with Rev. R. S. Qualls, pastor, in charge.

JAMES F. SWINEY, JR., *Pastor*

DEER CREEK

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Deer Creek Church which is located nine miles north of Waverly, Tennessee, on Highway 13 was organized during the early 1800's, and met in a log church. In 1886 a new building was finished and the land was deeded by H. B. Cowan to the Methodist Church. The new church was located at the same site as the old one, and is still in service and in good repair.

This church has a membership of fifty, and is still an active country church.

J. W. JARRELL, JR., *Pastor*

ORLINDA

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

The Orlinda Methodist Church originates from the Salem Church, which was organized in a log schoolhouse known as the Willis School-

house. In 1852, a church building was erected on land donated by Matthew Willis, approximately one-half mile east of the schoolhouse, and it was known as New Salem. Active families in organizing the church were the Tarpleys, Duers, Davises, Willises, Harrisons, Claytons, Ellisons, and Warrens.

In 1891, the board of trustees, namely: W. B. Kelly, J. M. and J. H. Richards, D. R. Rose, and A. W. McMillan, acquired a plot of land in the village of Orlinda, upon which the present frame building was erected. A part of the land was donated by E. L. Crocker and R. L. Clayton. An additional plot was purchased from J. E. Webb.

The current members of the official board of stewards are: J. L. Richards, M. B. Gossett, William Royster, T. E. Lawrence, Mrs. Lon Henry, Mrs. W. R. Kelly, and Mrs. R. E. Covington.

Past ministers of the Orlinda Church are: William H. Browning, J. W. Faires, W. H. Beasley, William R. Hickman, John Chenault, F. S. Petway, Jerome Winford, B. H. Parker, Cato Davis, J. G. Harper, R. T. Benton, William Randall, T. R. Clendenin, John W. Kelley, John Bell, G. L. Hensley, B. H. Brandon, G. M. Sanders, W. T. Springer, A. W. Delk, John Williams, S. M. Ensor, F. R. Herlong, Henry J. Ive, W. J. Walkup, Robert Chenault, W. L. Harwell, W. V. Jarrett, O. E. Hall.

MRS. R. E. COVINGTON, *Historian*

BETHEL

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Bethel Methodist Church was erected between 1845 and 1850 in the Blue Springs community eight miles from Smithville. The original church building was constructed of hewn logs. The log house was used until 1910 when four acres were purchased adjoining the church grounds and a new house was built which is the one now in use. Rev. D. M. Barr was pastor during this expansion period. The church membership then was seventy-five. Nothing was done to the building until 1952 and 1953 when a front porch with double door entrance was added, three classrooms built and gas heat installed. The parsonage of six rooms is located on the church grounds.

Rev. Jewell Underwood, a member of this church, is preparing for the ministry.

W. E. SCHAEERER, *Pastor*

RUSSELL'S CHAPEL

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The first Methodist church building was erected about 1845. It was named Russell's Chapel. The records show that Mr. Robert

Russell united with the church in the year 1845. The church records were poorly kept in those early years of the church's history. We have very good records beginning with the year 1879. That year Rev. J. J. Comer was the Presiding Elder and Rev. M. J. Mabry was the pastor. The present church building was erected in 1910 and the land was donated by Mrs. Rebecca Nichols Buckner. Rev. J. T. Blackwood who is now in his ninety-eighth year of age was the Presiding Elder and Rev. J. O. Crawford was the pastor. Sunday school rooms were added during the pastorate of Rev. C. L. Kelley in 1934-35.

Monday night, February 21, 1955, at the second Quarterly Conference in the Eureka church, Mrs. Molly White who was eighty-two years old and Mr. John H. Pitts who was seventy-six years old were elected honorary stewards. Mrs. White has been a member of the church for sixty-six years and Mr. Pitts fifty-four years. Rev. H. H. Austin is our District Superintendent.

JAMES T. JOHNSON, *Pastor*

BETHEL

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Bethel Methodist Episcopal Church of Franklin County, Tennessee, was organized in 1846 and was located on the north side of what is now known as Lynchburg Pike No. 50 near where Paynes Sawmill now stands six miles west of Winchester. The building was made of logs and was used for twenty-six years. Because of lack of water, it was decided to build a second house near the spring at the headwaters of Owlhollow Creek (then known as Town Creek). Thus the present house was erected in 1872 of brick which was made nearby.

At present it is in good condition and this year 1954, the members have built a two-story annex with four classrooms and large upper room.

All honor goes to the pioneer stewards, namely, Billy Cole, Rich Shasteen, and Donald Woodward, for their untiring efforts and an evergreen Sunday school which has never gone into winter quarters.

The present enrollment is 100.

D. R. POOLE, *Pastor*

LIBERTY (Giles County)

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

One hundred and nine years ago, 1846, Rogers Simpson sold the land upon which Liberty Methodist Church now stands. Those who

participated in erecting the hewn log building were Rogers Simpson, Willis Whitfield, Thomas Campbell, John James, Messrs. Riddle, Vinson, and others whose names we do not have. The work was done by hand; the logs were sawed by an old whip saw and were tied together at the top with an immense yellow poplar log. The seats were made of logs sawed into thick pieces and were supported by pegs driven in the under side for legs. The pulpit was a box arrangement.

In spite of the crudeness of the building, wilderness roads, and practically no means of communication except the "grape vine method," the congregations were always large. The backless log pews did not bother. The hillside was covered by wagons, mules and horses as the means of transportation. Mrs. Charles Hasting who was one of the brave devout members rode horseback to church at the age of eighty and thought nothing of it.

In years past, Liberty was a great place for revival meetings when hundreds of people gave their hearts to God. Many shouts of praise went up to him. There were no night services. Preaching services continued all day with dinner on the high rocks which served for tables. Revival services continued from one to three weeks including Sundays. Before the revivals began the church floor was covered thick with straw usually by the slaves of Mr. Rogers Simpson. When babies and little children fell asleep they were placed on the straw for their naps. The members of Liberty in the early years were designated by their dress. The women wore bonnets of similar material and make and usually were black.

Among the early ministers were Robert L. Fagan, Ganaway, Joel W. Whitten, Thompson, and Dr. Locke. Rev. W. C. Folks, who was admitted into the Tennessee Conference in 1915, is our present pastor in his third year.

The old log building around which clustered so many sacred memories as we have been told through the years, was replaced in 1886 by a large frame building which is in use today. Everything has changed. Instead of wagons, mules, and horses around the church are automobiles; instead of the grape vine means of communication we have telephones; rarely ever a shout is heard; revivals are of short duration; the character of the sermons is different. But one thing has not changed at Liberty. The fine, elevated flat rocks which our ancestors used for tables are used today for the same purpose. The first minister to conduct a service in the new 1886 building was Rev. John Kellum of precious memory to thousands of people in his home county of Giles. We have on roll 218 members today.

VACHEL ELDER, *Historian*

Rev. James Elder, formerly of the Tennessee Conference and now of the Memphis Conference, entered the Methodist ministry from Liberty. He is a brother of the above-named historian.—Editor.

NEW HOPE

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The New Hope Methodist Church was founded in 1847. A committee composed of W. E. Allen, B. F. Rambo, and J. A. Meadows purchased from R. S. Ewell and L. E. Ewell one acre of land for the church. The trustees were William G. Clayton, John D. Moore, William M. Cooper, Macklin Wilkinson, and A. C. Clayton. On the 14th day of March, 1871, an additional acre was purchased. The location was known as "New Hope at Cherry Corner."

This church property was sold in 1916 and a new location was established just east of Ostella. Upon this more centrally located building lot the congregation erected a beautiful brick building. The church has an enrollment of about 160 with ninety enrolled in the Sunday school. The congregation is growing and meets regularly all financial obligations. The Cornersville and New Hope pastoral charge pays the pastor a salary of \$3,000, of which New Hope pays \$960.

N. O. ALLEN, *Pastor*

WARTRACE

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Wartrace Methodist Church is a very progressive country congregation. It has an active Methodist Youth Fellowship and Woman's Society of Christian Service organizations. Several members of this church have gone into full-time Christian service. It is the strongest church financially and in membership on the Barren Plains Circuit. Recently four Sunday school rooms were erected under the leadership of T. C. Baggett, Richard Dorris, Frank Jones, Russell Bidwell, and others. It is an old congregation having been organized in 1848 when James Browning gave one acre of land in which he specified it was for a congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The following were the first trustees: Jesse W. Davis, Walter Bell, and Charles Crawford.

GLEN A. MURRELL, *Pastor*

BETHLEHEM

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The year of 1811 is believed to be the year that the Methodists and Presbyterians built a union church, named Pleasant Hill, on Sneed Road in Williamson County.

The Methodists were given the land, on which the church now stands, in 1848 by Mrs. Betsy Armstrong and Ennis Murray. While

the church was being erected the members met in a house owned by John Wilson on Manley Lane. The present church was completed and dedicated August 29, 1849, with six members according to the register of 1848. These were Mrs. Mahala H. Wilson, Mrs. Charlotte E. Hulme, Mrs. Elizabeth Armstrong, Mrs. Julia G. Murray, Joshua Pearre, and Mrs. Margaret E. Sawyer. Although they were not on the church register of 1848, church records show that Ennis Murray, John Wilson, Willis B. Wray, John W. Hulme, William B. Hulme, Henry Hulme, and Moses E. Cato, Sr., were trustees and the only officers of the church.

The circuit rider failed to appear at the initial service and a layman, John Wesley Hulme, preached the first sermon. The first minister to preach at Bethlehem was F. N. Petway, who served the church for six years. The Sunday school was organized in 1870 by Major Sam Turney, a Confederate soldier. The first Woman's Missionary Society was organized on January 8, 1887, with eight charter members.

The present building was moved backward a few feet and remodeled in 1912 during the pastorate of W. H. Beasley.

Other historical places of Methodism in the community were two camp grounds; one was called Hills Camp Ground, established in 1832 on the banks of the Big Harpeth River on Moran Road. The other camp ground was on Little Harpeth River near the present Johnson Methodist Church.

EDITH SAWYER, *Historian*

NEW PROVIDENCE

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

According to records in the Montgomery County Courthouse we find the first Methodist church in New Providence was a frame building erected in 1848. The lot was purchased from Mr. Stace Trice for \$100 and deeded to the trustees: Henry Beaumont, David Browder, John W. Burjep, Joseph D. Staton, Alfred Cage, and B. J. Mills. After twenty-six years the church was sold for \$300, and the present church was built in 1874 at a cost of \$3,845.30. The land was sold by Mr. Richard Grunstead for \$400 and deeded to the trustees: L. S. Whitfield, J. C. Burgess, Benny Lyle, D. W. Scott, John R. Martin, J. T. Station, and A. J. Gup-ton.

The church is located on Highway 41-A. In 1938 six Sunday school rooms were added, and on account of the rapid growth three additional rooms and a recreation hall were built in 1954. The auditorium has been redecorated several times in the past years. A carpet and Hammond organ were purchased in 1953. Miss Jean Haskins,

our organist, has recently organized a junior choir of which the church is very proud. Mr. Robert Turner is our church school superintendent, and through his insistent efforts and cordial persuasion our church school has increased rapidly until we now have 172 on the roll. Mr. Homer Neblett, one of our oldest and most valuable members, is the teacher of our Men's Bible Class which numbers thirty members. We have an active Woman's Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild with a total membership of forty. Mr. T. E. Bridgewater and Mrs. Trixie Parks are presidents. Our charge treasurer is Mrs. C. R. Burrell. Mr. Herman Pressler is charge lay leader and is always ready for any service to the church whether taking a Sunday school class or filling the pulpit. The membership of the church has grown to 266.

Mrs. Frank Hawkins, the wife of one of our beloved former pastors, and her sister Mrs. Hatton Jones are devoted Christians and active members. Mr. Willie Walker is a faithful member who contributes generously to his church. In 1945 the church lost one of its most devoted members, Mrs. Julia Mehigan Walker, who leaves a precious memory.

We have four shut-in members: Mrs. W. C. Austin, aged 77, Miss Fannie Smith aged 83, Miss Nancy Mills aged 86, and Miss Annie Smith aged 92, all of whom are an inspiration to the younger members.

A list of loyal members who have been in the church for more than twenty-five years includes Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Clardy, Mr. Homer Neblett, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Jones, Mrs. Arch Wade, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Bridgewater, Mr. Willie Walker, Mr. Robert Turner, Miss John Power, Miss Carolyn Austin, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Burrell, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Pressler.

The trustees of the church are O. T. Vaughan, W. H. Jones, and R. C. Pressler.

The pastors since 1895 have been Doss, Ransom, Gregory, Henley, Rice, Hensley, Dickson, Smotherman, Armstrong, Hawkins, Spurlock, Cotton, Givens, Lane, Westenberg, Organ, Henry, Williams, Smith, Hunt, Cloud, and Ferguson.

MRS. ARCH WADE,

MRS. FRANK HAWKINS, *Historians*

CITY ROAD CHAPEL

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Dr. John B. McFerrin in his *History of Methodism in Tennessee* Volume 1, page 305, states that on July 3, 1796, Rev. Green Hill

preached at a service on the bank of the Cumberland River at Neely's Lick. Evidently this is today Neely's Bend which is about three miles from the location of City Road Chapel. We have not found an authoritative record to prove that a Methodist organization existed in the vicinity of Neely's Bend prior to 1848. However, it is reasonable to believe that the organization of City Road Chapel roots back to July 3, 1796, when Rev. Green Hill preached at Neely's Lick. The recorded history of City Road Chapel began in the summer of 1848 when the first house of worship was erected. Following is a quotation from the *Christian Advocate* of November 24, 1848:

"During the past summer our friends on White's Creek Circuit erected one of the most spacious, beautiful, and convenient country churches we have ever seen. It is situated on the Gallatin Turnpike about seven miles from Nashville, and is located in the heart of a most excellent neighborhood. Brother Clark, the preacher in charge, selected for it the appropriate and honored Methodist name, City Road Chapel. This new chapel is no discredit to the old 'City Road,' but is an honor and ornament to the neighborhood in which it is located. Its doors will ever be open to the true worshipper, and we pray its altar fires may ever burn pure incense of prayer and praise."

The deed to the property was not recorded until November 20, 1850, by the following trustees: W. A. Hamilton, John Maxey, James A. Wilson, W. W. Parham, John W. Pennington, Chas. W. Moorman, and William B. Ewing. Here in the midst of a beautiful cedar grove the first City Road Chapel was used for more than twenty years.

Bishop Horace M. DuBose tells in his *Life of Joshua Soule* of a historic Conference held at City Road Chapel during the Federal occupation of Nashville near the beginning of the fourth year of the Civil War. Bishop Soule issued a call for such of the preachers as were within reach to meet at City Road Chapel, the church near his home. The purpose of the Conference was to ordain the deacons and elders elected in 1862 at Cornersville and to give such pastoral advice as he could since no bishop had been able to visit the Tennessee Conferences within the past two years.

On August 5, 1871, it was agreed to unite the congregations of City Road Chapel and McFerrin's Chapel, named in honor of John B. McFerrin.

The new church was named "Midway" since the location on Neely's Bend Road three miles east of Gallatin Road was about equidistant between the uniting churches.

The first Quarterly Conference held at Midway Church was on May 18, 1872, and the last one held there was February 18, 1899—a period of nearly twenty-seven years intervening. The Midway Church was destroyed by fire May 3, 1899.

For some time previous to this last mentioned date it had been deemed by many as best to remove Midway Church to a more accessible point, but not all were agreed on it. However, after the fire had destroyed the building the membership with one accord, aided by the community at large, with John A. McFerrin, pastor, erected a handsome new structure at the corner of Gallatin Road and Neely's Bend Road, the present site of our church. Here on Sunday, September 3, 1899, the congregation met to lay its cornerstone and to restore to it the name it originally bore, City Road Chapel, named in honor of John Wesley's first church in London—now the famous City Road Chapel, the shrine of world-wide Methodism. The dedication sermon was delivered by Dr. W. F. Tillett, Dean of the School of Religion of Vanderbilt University, on September 1, 1901.

On May 26, 1919, \$5,590.75 was raised by this congregation for a Centenary Special to build a church and parsonage at North Gate, Huchow, China. In addition, the Sunday school agreed to support the native pastor for five years. Latest reports show this church has rendered distinguished service in helping to Christianize this part of China.

For about two decades all Sunday school services were held in the church auditorium. In 1923, Mr. J. Taylor Stratton, a very prominent member and leader of this church, offered to give \$2,500 if the membership would raise a like amount for the purpose of building a Sunday school annex at a cost of \$5,000. Funds were raised immediately and the new annex was built adjoining the church on the north side, adding nine beautiful rooms for educational use.

In 1929, City Road Chapel became a Station Charge in the Gallatin District with the Rev. Boyd S. Fielder as full-time pastor. One year later additional property was purchased and the present parsonage was erected.

The church grew rapidly and in 1936 had completely outgrown its auditorium and educational facilities. The congregation, under the wise and able leadership of her pastor, the Rev. H. E. Baker, began an expansion program. The first step forward was the building of a large stone basement foundation that would take care of the overflow of the Youth Department, and later erect a new and handsome auditorium on this basement foundation. Within a year the foundation and basement had been built and paid for. It was then decided to go forward with the new auditorium, built of stone and steel with a seating capacity of about 500. The cornerstone was laid on the 15th day of May 1938. The first Sunday of November 1938 was the opening date of the church, with Bishop Paul B. Kern preaching.

During the pastorate of Rev. Cullen T. Carter the indebtedness of



City Road Chapel

\$16,126 was paid, and on June 13, 1943, the church was dedicated by Bishop Paul B. Kern.

The Quarterly Conference, held November 2, 1949, authorized the sponsoring of a new church in Amqui School community. The Conference named the committee composed of J. C. Dale, Jr., R. R. Mincy, S. H. Gee, F. W. Garrett, and Rev. T. A. Matthews, to locate and arrange for the purchase of a lot. This was the beginning of what is now known as Matthews Memorial Church now grown into a Station Charge with Rev. Billy R. Panter, pastor.

The Quarterly Conference, in session June 14, 1950, with Rev. James H. Elder, pastor, authorized the tearing down of the old church building, which was erected in 1899, to make way for the building of a three-story educational building to be constructed of Tennessee stone.

The building committee was composed of—W. L. Franklin, Chairman; E. D. Foster, Treasurer; A. H. Starnes, F. M. Garrett, Charles W. Jones, Jr., L. T. Clark, Clay A. McNutt, R. L. McGaugh, J. E. Hart, Harry Sylar, J. Austin DeMontbreun, John R. Payne.

Because of the shortage of steel needed in the construction of the educational building the work was delayed, and the building was not completed until during the second pastorate of Rev. H. E. Baker (1951-53), who was reassigned to this church because of the unanimous request of the local Quarterly Conference. The building will be dedicated as soon as the \$14,000 indebtedness has been paid.

D. B. SARGENT, *Pastor*

ASHLAND CITY

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Methodism in Ashland City is older than the town. The early members worshiped at "Leland Meeting House" which was the old Cumberland Presbyterian Church at Forest Hill, a log structure which stood where the gates of the cemetery now stand.

The Ashland City Church had a varying existence. The early church was a part of the Lebanon District. From 1849 to 1855 it was called the "Ridge Mission" and had a membership of fifty-eight. From 1856 to 1860 it was called "Sycamore Mission" and had a membership of 230 white and thirteen colored. In 1861 it was changed to the "Ashland Mission" with ninety-four members. From 1869 to 1873 the Ashland Mission was located in the McKendree District. In 1873 the mission was called "Cheatham Circuit" and was in the Clarksville District. In 1877 it was called "The Ashland Station" but in 1883 it was returned to a circuit arrangement. It

remained a two point charge until 1950 when it was placed by itself. From 1849 to 1955 the church has increased its membership by eight times its original number. In 1955 the membership stands at 400 with a total constituency of 600. The church has grown faster than the county or city, the population of the city being 1,200.

The first recorded pastor of the church was Bro. Zach Parker in 1851. Since 1935 the following have served as pastors: J. F. Swiney, N. Wilson, Beasley, W. D. Givens, R. Boaz, R. Rawls, W. Largen, B. H. Parker, H. Henry, R. R. Lewis.

In 1869 a building was erected on the site of the present church on lots given by Cheatham County. In 1889 Major E. C. Lewis, president of the Sycamore Powder Mills, gave his services as a skilled architect and the old barnlike building was remodeled into a beautiful church with its tall spire which could be seen from every road leading into Ashland City.

This church was used until 1934 when through the leadership of Rev. J. F. Swiney and the cooperation of the local people, the old church was torn down to be replaced by the beautiful brick and stone structure of today.

Since 1934 the church has grown numerically and physically. In 1952 the old parsonage was sold and a new one purchased. In 1954 the church purchased the adjoining property with the house on it. This extended the church property to a city block. It also supplied the church and church school with much-needed classroom and office space. The property valuation in 1955 was \$100,000.

The following compose the official board for 1955—*Trustees*: Albert Clifton, Noble Gunn, W. C. Jackson, Wood Bouldin, Avery Powell, J. K. Simpkins. *Stewards*: Sidney Morris, Dorris Morris, Avery Roberts, Vincent Harper, T. B. Ayers, Harold Pitt, Ruse Tucker, Dan Stack, Sam Marable, Neil Robertson, Eugene Simpkins, George Murff, Eli Murff, Newton Shearon, George Deal, Ben Thompson, Frank Robertson, Dr. Harper, Mrs. Grace Ayers, Mrs. Ruth Powell. *Sunday school superintendent*: Frank Robertson, Jr. *President, M.Y.F.*: Miss Janice Clifton. *President of the Woman's Society of Christian Service*: Mrs. W. C. Jackson.

ROBERT LEWIS, *Pastor*

FERNVALE

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The Fernvale Methodist Church is located in the Fernvale community on South Harpeth River in the First District of Williamson County, Tennessee. It was organized on October 10, 1849. Some of

the first names listed on the church roll at the time of organization are those of James Hughes, William Givens, Granvil Inman, John Taylor, William King, Lucinda Smith, Andrew S. Allen, Daniel Butt, and Priscilla Fudge, and it is assumed that they took a leading part in the organization of the church.

The original location of the church building was about one mile up South Harpeth River, south of the present location. The membership at time of organization as nearly as can be ascertained was about fifty-four. The present membership is sixty-eight.

There is no record that indicates that any members of the Fernvale Methodist Church have gone into the ministry of The Methodist Church.

The land on which the present church building is located was for the consideration of \$5.00 deeded by Samuel Smith to Thomas Stovall, William Anderson, and James H. Hughes, trustees of McEwen Chapel, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Tennessee Conference on March 6, 1885. The deed was witnessed by A. W. Horton, who was pastor of the church at that time, and J. W. Caldwell. Doubtless the church was known as McEwens Chapel Methodist Church before being moved down the river to the present location. The church experienced difficulty during the Civil War as the record discloses that it had no pastor from 1861 through 1865.

Following are the officials for 1955-56: *Trustees*—J. L. Hughes, C. L. Smith, Felix King. *Stewards*—W. P. Bruce, J. L. Hughes, C. L. Smith, Lewis King, Christopher Mangrum, Mat Sullivan. *Recording steward*—Mrs. Mat Sullivan. *Superintendent of the Sunday school*—Mat Sullivan.

WENDELL H. KING, *Historian*

WALTON'S CHAPEL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The first congregation was organized in 1849 and named Major's Chapel for Jonah Major, who gave the land. The original log house was erected in 1866. The record shows that the land was deeded to J. S. Majors, J. B. Walton, and J. H. Patrick who were the first three trustees, October 2, 1872.

The historic old church is located in the fourteenth district of Montgomery County, on the Mosely Ferry Road one mile west of Henrietta, Tennessee. It is on the Asbury Circuit of the Clarksville District of the Tennessee Conference.

The membership of the first organization was very small, but the enthusiasm was great. The efforts of those few faithful Christian workers have grown into a congregation of 189. Billy Pinson, an

early convert, became a nationally known Methodist evangelist from this small rural church.

The first structure was hewn logs and remained so until 1906 when weather boarding was placed over the logs. In the early twenties the inside took on ceiling to cover the logs. Another step of progress came in the forties when the ceiling was arched with wallboard, electric lights were installed, and new floors were added.

Recently a Sunday school annex consisting of four classrooms was added, and gas heat replaced the warm morning heater.

Its material facilities don't yet match its spiritual fervor. The church school has grown from a membership of fifteen to an average of 100.

The work is carried on by a W.S.C.S., M.Y.F., Adult Fellowship, and a church school group that supplements two Sunday services by our pastor each month.

JOHN E. STAVELY, *Pastor*

SALEM

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The exact date of the founding of Salem Church and by whom organized is not known. Although there are no records of regular pastors before 1854, proof has been established that the church was in existence as early as 1849. The first building was a log structure used as a church and a school.

Rev. R. L. Fagan was appointed pastor in 1854. Rev. Mark Gray served from 1858 through 1861. Rev. W. T. Dye was appointed in 1861. No pastors were appointed during the Civil War years, but there is a complete record of those that have served since 1865.

In 1873 the heirs of Randolph Ramey gave land for a new church and cemetery. The deed reads: "We, the heirs of Randolph Ramey, in consideration of the love we bear for the cause of Christ and for Salem M. E. Church, South, and of the promise he, Randolph Ramey, gave the society of Salem Methodist Church, give ten acres of land in District 17, Montgomery County, State of Tennessee, to be used for church and school. One acre of said land to be laid off for a cemetery. We give this land to B. R. Ramey, C. S. Roberts, H. O. Wyatt, C. H. Ramey and James Morrison, trustees, to be used under the direction of the General Conference." The deed was signed by A. Ramey and S. E. Ramey and dated Nov. 12, 1873. No record has been found of the exact date that the church was built. Rev. J. W. Cullom, a beloved pastor from 1877 through 1881, tells in his diary of the pleasant years spent at Old Salem and of many souls being born into the Kingdom. The minutes of the Church Conference of Oct. 4, 1855, reports the church in good condition with 130 members,

also the Sunday school with seventy-five enrolled. P. P. Neblett, C. D. Roberts, and D. L. Yarbrough were among the early teachers.

In the minutes of the Church Conference of Oct. 2, 1886, a motion was made and carried that Salem Society, feeling the need of a new church, undertake to build one. C. D. Roberts, Samuel Hinton, John Daly, Thomas Pruitt, and John Turner were appointed to investigate and decide upon a location. It was not until 1890 that plans got underway for the new church. George Lowe, John Edmondson, J. H. Coke, D. L. Yarbrough, T. P. Richardson, Miss Lucy Richardson, Miss Hester Coke, and Miss Annie Neblett were appointed to solicit funds. Three and five-eighths acres of the parsonage property was secured for a building site.

The church was built and the dedicatory sermon preached by Bishop Morrison in May 1896. The same building stands today. Seven Sunday school rooms, a kitchen and dining room have been added. It is heated with gas, and a Hammond organ was installed recently.

Salem is proud of the fact that two of her members became ministers—Rev. Sam Coke, retired, and Rev. Harold Coke, a member of Tennessee Conference. She has a membership of 235, a well-organized Sunday school, M.Y.F., and W.S.C.S. that celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in 1952.

Salem has a record of progress and achievement, and much of the credit is due the consecrated leaders who guided her through those early years.

MRS. JOHN L. EDMUNDSON, *Historian*

RIVERSIDE

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

According to tradition, Riverside Methodist Church had its beginning about 1850. As the population shifted during the century, the congregation also changed the location of the building. It is now occupying its third site. The original building was a log house which was also used for public school purposes as many church buildings were used in the early days of Methodism in Middle Tennessee. The log house was supplanted by a frame building in early 1900. This building was moved by sections in 1921 one mile west near Duck River and the original name, "Riddens Chapel" was changed to "Riverside."

The membership of Riverside Methodist Church was never large. What it lacked in numbers it made up in loyalty and true devotion to Methodism. It has twenty-six members with twenty-five enrolled in the Sunday school. It belongs to the Manchester Circuit. Rev. O. H. Lane, retired, is the pastor.

A. L. HODGE, *Historian*

ZION HILL

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

This church is known to have existed before 1867. An 1897 copy of the *Christian Advocate* (Methodist Episcopal Church) speaks of this church having been reorganized thirty years before that date. The church was organized by the Reverend Rippetoe, a Methodist Episcopal preacher from Illinois who organized a number of churches in this section. Zion Hill was relocated in 1902 at the present site, approximately two miles south of Unionville. At the time of its relocation, the trustees were J. B. Moon, R. M. Potts, J. L. Potts, D. Wheeler, and E. H. Potts. Pastors around the turn of the century included John St. John and W. H. Stricklin. Since unification it has been a part of the Eagleville Charge and for the past ten years, with one exception, has been served by theological students of Vanderbilt University.

The church has a membership of 104 with sixty enrolled in the Sunday school. The four churches on the Eagleville Circuit pay the pastor a salary of \$2,400 of which Zion Hill pays \$480. It assumes and pays all financial askings. It appreciates the traditions of Methodism and is true to its doctrines and teachings.

LESTER NAVE, *Pastor*

GIDEON

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

We do not know the exact date of the organization of the church. We do know it probably goes back prior to 1850 when the grounds were used as meeting place in the summer. Large brush arbors were built for warm weather services and a shed was constructed to hold the implements of the church during bad weather.

During the winter months services were held in a log schoolhouse on the grounds. Some of the church members were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Whiten, and Mrs. Margaret Warren.

Finally the good people of the church put their "shoulders to the wheel" and built the present building, which was dedicated in 1876. The grounds for the church were later deeded to the people of Gideon by Mr. Charley Williams.

Gideon Church is one of the oldest in Robertson County and for many years was the only church around, serving as a guiding light all over the countryside for people both old and young.

In those days when a young lady went to church she rode behind

her boy friend on the same horse. Some rode their own horse with a sidesaddle—always wearing a long black skirt for fear their ankles might be seen. Not so many years ago the old horse block was standing on the grounds. The horse block was a stand with steps where the lady could mount her horse easily. Some not fortunate enough to own a horse or have a friend who owned one walked to the church, carrying their shoes in their hands until they were almost there—then sitting down by the side of the road (after brushing off tick seed with penny royal) they would put on the shoes and proceed to the meeting.

No one seems to remember who the first pastor was but some of the grand old men of long ago who preached are old Uncle Dan Simmons, as he was called by those who knew him best, Brothers Keithley, Cherry, Billy Hatten Swift, Crump, Horton, and Rice. Everyone speaks highly of Brother and Mrs. Cook who came here from Clarks-ville, and what a wonderful work they did! Mrs. Cook was a fine organist and sang beautifully. Through them, a wonderful worker, Miss Hester Coke, came to this community, later becoming Mrs. Nelson Crawford.

Other fine pastors were Lovell, Brown, Whiston, and Martin. Brother Brown was the first to own a rubber-tired buggy in these parts. Many of the "old timers" thought it hindered the cause. To them a person was putting on "airs" when he came out in a rubber-tired rig.

Back then Sunday school went into winter quarters when cold weather came along. However, preaching occurred every second and fourth Sunday afternoon throughout the year. Sunday school was reorganized each year on Easter Sunday. How happy the children were to go back. It was a great event to sit again in class and listen to their teacher, wearing their new patent leather slippers and bright calico dresses along with new Easter bonnets of straw wreaths with flowers around the crown and ribbon streamers hanging down the back. Some of the Sunday school superintendents were Mr. Jeff Warren, Earl Spalding, and Charlie Crawford, who was superintendent for many years and through his wonderful efforts the Sunday school was kept going. Some of the teachers never to be forgotten were Mrs. Hester Crawford, Mollie Warren, Betty Cook, Dora Mayes and many others.

Back in the good old days people would come from miles around to the protracted meetings in their two-horse wagons, fringed-top surreys, horesback, and walking. There would hardly be hitching room. The church would never hold the night crowds and the day services were well attended too.

The testimonial service and love feasts, held during each revival,

were great experiences, and, too, there was always a great deal of shouting. In fact if there were no shouting the service was considered cold.

In the early days of the church there were no musical instruments. Singing was done by note—the preacher would read a line and then they would sing. The songbook was about the size of a pocket Testament with no musical notes—just words. Several years later a preacher by the name of Christian presented the church with an organ. Mrs. Belle Crawford Jones was the first organist. Later her three sisters, Misses Ora, Pearl, and Goldie, served as organist. Their brother Nelson was song leader.

Gideon Church was for many years on the White House Charge, but it is now on the Greenbrier Charge. Some of the good men who have served as pastors in recent years are Armstrong, Langston, Knowles, Cotton, Dickson, Thomas, Parker, Lane, Kribb, Sofge, Sublette and our present pastor, Luke Fuqua.

Beginning with Brother Parker and continuing up to now, many changes have been made on the building, such as new hardwood floors, underpinning, walls, ceiling, and six new Sunday school rooms, new sanctuary, new pews, a complete gas heating system, electricity and many more innovations.

The official board at this time consists of Joe Morris, chairman; Hubert Crawford, treasurer; H. F. Jones, Boyd Sanders, Mrs. R. E. Small, Mrs. Walter Crutcher, Walter Crutcher, Mrs. Wade Mayes, Charlie Mayes, Burgess Crawford, Will Warren, Robert Jarratt, Henry Seay Crawford.

No more attractive little country church can be found anywhere and only eternity can tell the good it has done to this community in years gone by. With God's help Gideon will continue as a guiding light in a dark world on through the years.

JOE MORRIS, *Historian*

MT. CARMEL

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Mt. Carmel Methodist Church was organized about 1850. The present building was erected in 1952 and the third structure to be built by the congregation. The original building was constructed of logs and was used for both church services and school purposes.

Mt. Carmel is a substantial rural church. It has 125 members with approximately seventy-five on roll in the Sunday school. The Sparta Circuit pays its pastor \$2,500, of which Mt. Carmel pays \$435.

There are five churches on the circuit. It assumes and pays its share of the benevolences.

It was a great day for this community in April, 1954, when Bishop Roy Short, with the assistance of the District Superintendent, Rev. S. D. Oagan, dedicated our present building. Rev. Guy Hawkins is our pastor.

CLYDE MULLIGAN, *Historian*

PEELED CHESTNUT

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Peeled Chestnut Methodist Church is one of the five churches on the Shady Grove Charge. Before the union of the branches it was of the Northern Branch.

This church was organized more than 100 years ago. In the beginning it was called Hayes' Chapel and was located about two miles closer to Smithville. It now is about halfway between Sparta and Smithville. It has been at its present location about eighty-five years. The building that stands today was built about 1903 and at the present time a \$5,000 remodeling project is under way. It has always been a very active church with a large membership. Today there are sixty resident members.

Some of the very active early members of the church were Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Gracey, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Gracey, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Keathley, and Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Hayes.

William M. Stowers, pastor of Peeled Chestnut Church at the time of printing this history, 1955, came to the Shady Grove Circuit in 1951.

W. M. STOWERS, *Pastor*

CHAPEL HILL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Chapel Hill Methodist Church is the oldest church on the Antioch Circuit in the Clarksville District. The four acres of land on which the church was erected was deeded to G. H. Moore, C. Morris, Peter Harris, Thomas Raney, and John W. Ussery August 16, 1850, as trustees. The church has an enrollment of eighty-two. The total enrollment in the Sunday school is 110. Rev. A. C. Parker is our pastor.

MRS. JAMES BRAME, *Historian*

NEW HOPE

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

New Hope Methodist Church, located ten miles north of Waverly, Tennessee, in Humphreys County, was organized in the mid-eighteen

hundreds. Its first building was a log church situated on a plot of land given to the church by Mr. Harry Dowdy.

In 1882 the log building was replaced by its present structure.

Situated in a sparsely settled community, it has never had a large membership, but it has served its community continuously for almost a century and now has a small but active membership.

J. W. JARRELL, *Pastor*

DECHERD

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

New life was kindled in a small community in the First Civil District in Franklin County two miles east of Winchester when the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad was built through the country in 1852. Two years later, September 4, 1854, Mr. Peter S. Decherd, for whom Decherd was named, sold to Mr. John H. Duncan a tract of land which is today the location of Decherd, Tennessee.

Probably it will never be known when the Methodists started an organization in the town of Decherd. The Methodist circuit riders were ranging far and wide in Middle Tennessee in the pioneer period. Where a settlement started the circuit rider was early on the ground. In the light of all the factors we place the beginning of Methodism in Decherd not later than 1850, four years before the above land sale was made. By this time a Methodist church had been in Winchester for twenty-five years. Very likely the first place for religious service was in homes of the early settlers and as the organization grew a log church building was erected and served for many years. Those early Methodists were poor statisticians; they were interested more in conversions and building the church than in keeping records.

Decherd Methodist Church first appeared in the "General Minutes of the Church" as an appointment in 1891. About one year later, November 29, 1892, Joseph Duncan, J. A. Duncan, S. L. Duncan, A. Duncan, J. H. Duncan, and W. N. Hessey, probably descendants of the original John H. Duncan, sold to G. W. Stamper, W. W. Tucker, T. J. Scott, B. F. Knight, R. H. Hessey, who were trustees of the Methodist church, lots A and B in the third block in Decherd for \$125.00 as a building site for the church. The deed was registered April 29, 1893. The first church building was erected upon this lot in 1893.

Decherd Methodist Church experienced many difficulties in its operation. For the first three years of its history, 1891, 1892, 1893, it was associated with Cowan as an appointment; for four years it was

a mission appointment; for four years it did not appear in the list of appointments, being merged with a circuit; for a total of eighteen years at different times it was associated with Estill Springs as an appointment. It has remained a station since 1919, except it was with Estill Springs in 1928 and also in 1946, 1947, 1948.

The new three-story educational unit was erected in 1948 during the pastorate of Rev. C. S. Parker. Mr. Ollis Garner gave a portion of land behind his insurance office so that the educational building could be erected according to specification. His gift was a parcel of land 13x50 feet. Mr. and Mrs. Ben I. Heikens contributed \$13,800 toward the erection of the building or about one-half the cost. In 1950 Mrs. Ben Heikens gave the Hammond organ to the church which cost \$2,300. The sanctuary was beautifully decorated and new pews installed in 1950 which cost \$5,400. Mr. and Mrs. Heikens gave to the church the residence at the rear of the educational building.

Dechard Methodist Church has been blessed with many fine families in its long history. Without question, Mr. Ben I. Heikens and his wife, Mrs. Luella Armstrong Heikens, head the list. For twenty-five years or longer, Mr. Heikens was the efficient Sunday school superintendent. He used every available opportunity to improve himself in this field by reading, attending Christian education institutes and taking courses for credit in Standard Training Schools. These cultural courses gave him an insight into the needs of religious education in the local church. This is the chief explanation why the educational building was erected before his death and into which he gave large sums of money. His interest in education was more than local. He and Mrs. Heikens bequeathed the major portion of their wealth to Martin College, located in Pulaski, Tennessee. He was an outstanding citizen and stood for all social, moral, and political reforms locally, state and nation. Mrs. Heikens was truly a noble Christian lady of the old school. She gave herself without reserve to the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the Woman's Society of Christian Service, a teacher in the Sunday school, and all other activities of community and church betterment. Mr. and Mrs. Heikens truly loved the Methodist Church—its teachings, doctrines, polity and mission. They bequeathed their commodious, comfortable brick home to the Tennessee Conference of The Methodist Church to be occupied by retired preachers of the Tennessee Conference.

The church has a total membership of 415 and the Sunday school enrollment of nearly 300. The total program of The Methodist Church is in full operation. The church was never better housed,

equipped, financed, organized and with a greater spirit to go forward.

The following compose the official board: Earl Bennett, Joe Davidson, Fred Doney, F. B. Farrior, Jr., H. H. Ferguson, Ollis Garner, John Green, Alfred Gipson, Earl Grover, T. I. Harris, Hoyt Hastings, B. O. Huffman, Early Huffman, Harrison Ikard, Mrs. John Jones, W. B. Knight, Hubert McBee, Cecil Moore, Morris Moore, Hubert A. Nicholson, W. D. Payne, J. M. Phipps, Jess Powers, Mark Reed, J. E. Skidmore, Ben Spaulding, L. W. Starnes, Bob Winton, Joan McBee.

C. W. KUNZELMAN, *Pastor*

WESTMORELAND

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

The Westmoreland Methodist Church was organized sometime before the Civil War. It was in an area known today as New Hope, which is located about one mile west of Westmoreland. In those days men did not make deeds to land given to churches. When a church moved the land was returned to the original heirs, and for this reason we have no accurate date of its founding. However, Miss Maggie Coley, the only living member of the early church, said that her father, John Coley, was a member of the church when he left to fight in the Civil War in 1861. The first preacher of the church was Uncle Bill Coley, the grandfather of Miss Maggie. Uncle Bill came to New Hope community in 1810 and was a Methodist preacher at that time. He settled with his family and was probably the main leader in the founding of the congregation. Other preachers of the early church were Brother H. Matthews, Brother Jim R. Ray, Brother Bonds, Brother Bill Lynch, Brother J. M. Alexander. The first trustees were John Tuttle and Bob Anderson. Franklin Cooper was the recording steward for a great number of years before 1861 when he moved away. Among the charter members were Joe Hawkins, Mrs. Fannie Hawkins, John Coley, Billy Martin Perry, Mrs. Van Perry, Bill Coley and his family, John Tuttle and his family, Bob Anderson, Coopas Graves.

It was a log cabin in which the first congregation worshiped their Lord. One may quickly find the place where it stood by seeking out the old tombstone of Peter Anderson, a pioneer raised by the Indians from childhood, later a member of the church. This tombstone was just behind the log church. In 1894 the congregation voted to move the church near the new railroad which ran through the center of what today is called Westmoreland, Tennessee. The church building was a one-room frame structure that stood on a lot near the present

location of Westmoreland Feed Mill. Brother W. H. Baird was the first preacher to serve the new located congregation. The first parsonage was erected by Rev. J. D. Hewgley, who did much of the carpentry work himself.

In 1916 the first Ladies' Aid Society was organized. This was changed to a Missionary Society in 1928.

On August 18, 1923, the trustees—S. W. Brown, J. M. Hodges, E. T. Maggart—purchased the property where the church is now located. During the year 1924 a beautiful brick church was erected. On Christmas Eve night in 1924 the new building was destroyed by fire. It was faith, courage and love that moved the congregation to rebuild upon the ashes of the present concrete block structure. The cornerstone was laid in 1926. Brother George W. Poole was pastor during the erection of both buildings.

On October 4, 1953, the trustees purchased the property adjoining the north side of the church property. On May 10, 1955, the parsonage built in 1912 was sold and a new brick home was built next to the church. The parsonage trustees were Leo Law, W. A. Holmes, Joe Y. Law, Edward B. Simmons, Joe W. Carter, E. T. Maggart, D. B. Upton. The pastor was Brother Carter L. Lykins.

GUSTINE SIMMONS, *Historian*

BOATLAND

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

While the present building was not erected until 1905, it is a well-established fact that there was a Methodist church at Boatland long before the Civil War. Some of the early pastors were A. B. Wright, the Myers brothers, J. S. Clark, L. B. Clark, C. R. Ramsey, Joe Taylor, James Taylor, and a Rev. Crenshaw. In later years the following pastors served this church and area: J. W. Madewell, Robert Hall, who was regarded as "the Bishop of the Mountain," and C. B. Smith.

There are only thirteen full members; one new member was received last year. The Sunday school has an enrollment of thirty, divided as follows: four officers and teachers, nine in the Children's Division, three in the Youth Division, fourteen in the Adult Division. The average attendance is twenty-one. The church raised last year for all purposes \$200.00, which included \$120.00 on the pastor's salary, \$10.00 for World Service, \$4.00 General Advance Special and other apportionments in full. Even though we are a small congregation we endeavor to be faithful and grateful that we are a part of the great Methodist Church.

J. H. BROWN, *Pastor*

PARAN

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Paran Methodist Church is one of the oldest churches in Overton County. Established over 100 years ago (the exact date is unknown), it serves as home for many people in Overton, Putnam and other Upper Cumberland counties. Boasting a large, active and growing Sunday school, much has been done at Paran in the last several years. In 1948, when the old Cookeville Circuit was dissolved, Paran became a part of the Salem-Paran Charge. Since then many improvements have been made on the building which has served the community for a number of years. This year a building program has increased the size of the modern, gas-heated building by four Sunday school rooms on a "pay-as-you-go" basis.

Paran Cemetery, adjacent to the church, is one of the oldest in the area and is well kept and trim.

Records have been very inaccurate in regard to Paran's history, but one of the early pastors at Paran who obviously made an impression on some was a Rev. Hatcher. In recent years Paran has been served by supply pastors, some of whom have gone on to some of the larger churches in the Conference. ALEX W. NICHOLS, *Pastor*

LIBERTY

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Liberty Church was constructed over 100 years ago, with Cotton Valley Masonic Lodge occupying the second floor. The land was given by Mr. Bud Fowlkes and Mr. Harris W. Hooper.

Liberty Church was in the Bakerville Charge and served by circuit riders. Some of these were Rev. J. N. Handlin, Percy Bright Freeman, A. R. Hogan, C. L. Dorris, Boyd S. Fielder and the last to serve was E. B. Smith. In 1934 the Barkerville Circuit was merged with the Lobelville Charge as a missionary project and placed in the Mt. Pleasant District. Young ministers who began their ministry here and have become prominent are: Rev. Thomas W. Mayhew, James H. Elder and Lexie Freeman. In 1950 it was annexed to the Waverly Circuit in the Clarksville District.

Only one preacher has gone from this church, Allen Walker, who moved from this community when a small lad and went to live with his aunt in Canada where he received his education and married. His daughter, Miss Mary Walker of Nashville, survives. In 1927 Rev. A. P. Walker became Presiding Elder of the Dickson District and served his home church for four years.

One of the pillars of Liberty Church was William Warren, who built fires, cleaned the church and raised his voice in his favorite hymn, "The Rock That Is Higher Than I." Mrs. J. M. Capps has often been called the "Mother of Liberty." She has an enviable record of attending twenty-three Annual Conferences, and was known to everyone as "Miss Betty." Being the wife and mother of doctors, she loved the hymn "The Great Physician," and played this role, ministering to both white and black, even in the wee hours of the night. Though the members of this church barely number a dozen, the steeple towers heavenward, the doors are ajar with outstretched arms, as the bell peals forth the message of the Man of Galilee, "Come unto me and I will give you rest."

MRS. ALLEN BONE, *Historian*

HOBSON

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Hobson Methodist Church is one of the oldest and most historic churches in Nashville. The original church, located at the northeast corner of Tenth and Main Streets, in the Edgefield section, was known as Hobson Chapel and was built about 1850. The main building was completed and dedicated on October 3, 1853.

Up to the time of the outbreak of the War Between the States, the church had grown and included many colored members, as well as white, on its roll. In February, 1862, when the Federal Army occupied Nashville, the church was seized and used variously as a hospital for Negro smallpox patients, a slaughter house, and the basement as a stable for horses of Federal troops. At the close of the war the original building was sold.

The present site, a plot "five acres and five poles," was purchased from Johnny Monroe Sharpe, on the eighteenth day of September, 1867. When the church was built on the present site, the question arose as to the change of name from Hobson to Weakley; but since Nicholas Hobson gave more than all others to the original building, it was decided to keep the name Hobson Chapel in honor of his mother, Jeannette McLaurine Hobson.

In 1873 Weakley Chapel, a little church located on Porter Pike, combined its members with Hobson Chapel. The two-room house was moved to the grounds of Hobson and used as a schoolhouse. In 1877 a parsonage was built and the two-room schoolhouse was used as the kitchen and dining room, with three rooms added in front. This old parsonage was used until 1926, when a new one replaced it.

In October, 1909, under the pastorate of the Rev. T. W. Noland,

with Bishop Hoss presiding over the Annual Conference, the name of the church was changed from Hobson Chapel to Hobson Church. This is one of the few churches in Nashville having the distinction of having an individual name, as so many bear the name of the street or section of location. Hobson Church is located in a park. Many of the original shade trees are still standing.

The old church was dedicated in 1868 by the Rev. R. A. Young, first pastor at the present location. The congregation outgrew this building and the need was felt for a larger sanctuary. The cornerstone of the new church was laid June 30, 1929, with the Rev. H. M. Jarvis, pastor, and in October, 1929, the new church was opened. The \$65,000 indebtedness was paid and the church was dedicated by Bishop Paul B. Kern.

The church school facilities were still overcrowded, so in 1954 work was started connecting the two buildings. This gives to Hobson a wonderful plant.

In its more than 100 years of service in this community, historic Hobson Church is still serving second, third and fourth generations of original members. Many of its young men have gone into the ministry, and some of its young women into social service and missionary work.

DEAN STROUD, *Pastor*

JOHNSON'S

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Johnson's Methodist Church is located on the Granny White Pike about seven miles from the heart of Nashville. The year it was organized may never be known. In the light of certain factors, it must have been organized about 1850. The first building was a weather-boarded house which was used continuously until 1925 when a new modern building was erected within a few feet of the original location. Rev. E. C. Shelton was pastor during this period of transition.

There were several outstanding families in the church and community during the Civil War period. Among this number was Harvey Tucker who served as an official and conducted services of different nature in the absence of the pastor. One of his chief responsibilities was the Sunday school, in which he served as superintendent from 1865 to 1885. His son, W. A. Tucker, followed in his footsteps and became one of God's chief dependence among the laymen in the church. He was the progenitor of a truly great family. His son, Dr. Hugh Clarence Tucker, was a member of Johnson's since early childhood, was converted, baptized, licensed to

preach and delivered his first sermon in the old church. He was licensed by the Quarterly Conference January 20, 1876. Rev. R. P. Ransom was the Presiding Elder. He was admitted on trial into the Tennessee Annual Conference in 1879 at Murfreesboro with Lewis Powell, Henry B. Blue, H. B. Reams and others of precious memory. Dr. Tucker gave nearly sixty years as a missionary in Brazil. His brother, Mr. C. B. Tucker, and his father, William A. Tucker, were charter members of Park Avenue which was organized in 1882 and served as Sunday school superintendent of this church for forty years. Mrs. J. W. Perry, whose husband was a member of the Holston Conference, was a sister of Hugh and C. B. Tucker and a member of Johnson's. For many years she was one of the leaders in the Woman's Missionary work in the former Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Rev. Thomas Cotton, who was a member of the Tennessee Conference for forty-six years, was a member of Johnson's Church. Rev. Horton and Rev. Carpenter were prominent local preachers in Johnson's. There were other families besides the Tuckers, Cottons, Hortons and Carpenters in the early history of Johnson's Methodist Church but their records are not available.

For several years Johnson's was placed with Brentwood and later with Bethlehem. Today it is a station and has been for several years. There are 120 full members, active Sunday school and Woman's Society of Christian Service. The church is beautiful and serviceable, parsonage valued at \$8,500 and other property valued at \$7,500. Rev. Thomas Lackey, a member of the Tennessee Conference, is the present pastor. It has a truly great history but its future was never brighter.

The main facts of this historical sketch were provided by Dr. H. C. Tucker, who is now in his ninety-eighth year of age.

THOMAS C. LACKEY, *Pastor*

BRENTWOOD

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

More than a century ago, in the quiet and peace of the Brentwood community, was begun a Methodist church which has met the challenge of trials and tribulations which came to it over the years. Brentwood Methodist Church was organized about the year 1851. The people of Brentwood community had been attending church at Johnson's and Smyrna, but when the railroad was built through the country, and the new route to Franklin was established, it seemed wise to have a church at a more central point than either Johnson's or Smyrna. The first church building, a two-story struc-

ture, used both as church and school, was on a circuit with Smyrna, after which it was a station for several years. The first preacher was George Wynn, who lived in Nashville.

The first building, used as the church, was blown down in a storm in 1884, and the building in use until 1936 was dedicated in 1886. This building was free of debt, due to the liberality of its loyal members. The land on which the church and parsonage stand was donated by Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Moore, the late parents of Mr. Allen and Mr. Robert Moore. In 1936 another wind and rain storm brought pain to the hearts of the people of Brentwood. Lightning struck the church steeple and the building was demolished by fire. Again, due to the love and loyalty of its members, the Brentwood Church rebuilt the lovely building, which was dedicated September 24, 1939.

Now in the year 1955, with a rich heritage from its past, Brentwood Church looks to a future of ever-increasing opportunity in serving its rapidly growing community. A \$250,000 building is planned. The Christian education unit of this plant was opened February 27, 1955, and will be consecrated April 24, 1955. The people of Brentwood are of one accord in facing the challenge of the present day, knowing that they hold in their hearts the idea and ideals of Christ. They, too, are building His Church, as they proclaim His gospel and seek to bring others into fellowship with Him.

Pastors who have served the Brentwood Church follow: J. B. Allison, 1871-72; J. C. Putnam, 1873-74; A. A. Allison, 1875-77; W. R. Peebles, 1878-79; P. A. Sowell, 1880; T. B. Fisher, 1881-82; W. H. Doss, 1883-86; W. Weakley, 1887-90; R. P. Ransom, 1891-94; W. B. Taylor, 1895-96; H. B. McNeill, 1897-99; R. R. Jones, 1900-01; H. L. Munger, 1902-04; F. E. Alford, 1905-08; J. F. Tinnon, 1909-12; J. W. Hensley, 1913; J. E. Woodward, 1914-16; J. J. Ransom, 1917-18; W. H. Baird, 1919-20; E. C. Shelton, 1921-25; John W. Estes, 1926-28; W. T. Steele, 1929-31; Woodward A. Adams, 1932-38; C. B. Smith, 1939 until spring, 1943; Dr. W. K. Anderson supplied until Conference of 1943; John D. Perkins, 1943-44; C. B. Duncan, 1945; E. E. Walkup, 1946-50; Pickens Johnson, 1946-53; Philip M. Ritter, 1953- .

PHILIP RITTER, *Pastor*

GARRISON

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Garrison Methodist Church was organized by Rev. Carroll C. Mayhew in 1851. It was named "Garrison" because of its proximity to a military garrison located on top of a hill near by and which was occupied by soldiers from 1779 to 1802 to keep the Indians west of the Natchez Trace Road. It was an active church since its organiza-

tion except two or three years during the Civil War. Even then occasional services were conducted by laymen who were too old to be in the military service. Among these lay preachers were Wesley Irvin of Santa Fe, and A. B. Peach and T. W. Loche, residents of the community.

Following were the charter members: Charles M. Paynor, Catherine Paynor, Eliza Paynor, Elizabeth Paynor Carter, Sally Peach, Susan Baley, Celia Sheffield, Catherine Barr, Nancy Aldridge, James Paynor (colored), Hasty Paynor (colored). There were two other charter members whose names on the roll have become illegible.

A large number of the descendants of these charter members reside in the community today and hold membership in the old church. Mr. M. A. Meacham, in 1933, compiled a history of Garrison Methodist Church from which the above facts were taken. He was born and reared less than a mile from the church, is now in his eighty-first year of age and has been a member of Garrison since early childhood.

H. H. PARSONS, *Pastor*

SOULE'S CHAPEL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Soule's Chapel Methodist Church was organized in 1851 in a community called Beefrange. It is today Cumberland Furnace, Tennessee, R.F.D. 1. Mr. W. M. Mathis on October 6, 1851, made the following deed: "For the love and affection I entertain for the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, I do hereby give, transfer and convey to William Mathews, Randolph Mills, John Hinton, S. C. Whitsett, D. N. Mathews, Daniel Mills, trustees, in trust for the purpose hereinafter named a certain lot or parcel of land in Civil District No. 8, state and county aforesaid containing by estimation one acre be the same more or less. These trustees to erect or have erected a place of worship for the Methodist E. Church, South. Planters Division No. 264 'Sons of Temperance' of State of Tennessee or any other organization to use upper room to be built over the chapel."

During the War Between the States a lady watched the Yankees gather driftwood from Horse Branch and pile it against the church preparatory to burning the building. The bugle sounded and they had to report to their company which saved the church from being destroyed.

The original church building was torn down in 1888 and was rebuilt which is the building the congregation occupies today—April 29, 1955.

The following were among the early pastors of Soule's Chapel: W. D. Cherry, J. P. Funk, W. T. S. Cook, G. E. Eubank, J. G. Hinson, A. W. Barr. Among the pastors of late years were the following: B. J. Staggs, H. S. Hartley, O. W. Jones, R. D. Hill, H. S. McConnell, R. C. Crosslin.

This ancient church is the mother church of two prominent pastors in the Tennessee Conference today—Rev. Grady Wall and Rev. Lexie Freeman.

Rev. J. C. Elliot is our present pastor. The church membership is 130.

TENNIE CANNON, *Historian*

TRINITY

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

About the year 1850 in a log cabin, used as a schoolhouse and near the present church, only facing the old Dickerson Road, Dr. J. B. McFerrin and a Rev. Fountain E. Pitts preached occasionally to a small congregation. This was the beginning of Trinity Church. In 1852 a schoolhouse was erected where the church now stands which served as a church as well as a school. It was in this building that a Sunday school was organized with Mr. Jackson B. White, a Presbyterian, as the superintendent. Mr. White held this responsible place for some time and during his stay at Trinity a church society was organized, consisting of fourteen members. Our church records show ten of these charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Batte and daughter, Mrs. Sallie Hooper Phillips, Mrs. Polly Scruggs, Mr. and Mrs. Huldah Hooper Hart.

While in this school building, the Society was served by the preachers from Hobson Chapel in the afternoon, who were Fred Petway, Simon P. Whitten, and William Shepherd. In 1855, Rev. J. A. Ellis, who was actively engaged in missionary work, took charge and to the contrary of the rules at that time, remained four years and built the church building. The present lot, which was valued at \$200, was contributed by Mr. C. A. Walton. Mr. Jackson B. White was one of the most liberal contributors to the fund for the erection of the first church building. From 1855 to 1859 the church was kept up by its few loyal members and different pastors of other churches who would contribute of their time, and in 1859 the Church Society became a church with its first appointed pastor from the Annual Conference, Rev. William Burr, and at that time Rev. Adams S. Briggs was Presiding Elder. This new Trinity Church was well organized for such a small community, having two very devoted stewards, who were Thomas Batte and Stephen Hart. In 1861 Rev. Wil-

liam Green was appointed pastor with Rev. Adam S. Briggs still Presiding Elder. During the Civil War the pulpit was filled very irregularly by the Rev. W. R. Warren, Rev. Elisha Carr, Rev. R. A. Ashley and Rev. J. H. Gardner and some others but some of the time the only church services in this section were held in the private homes.

In 1865 to 1867 Rev. Felix R. Hill was pastor of Trinity and Erving's Chapel as a circuit with A. L. P. Green Presiding Elder. It was during Rev. Hill's stay at Trinity that the membership began to increase and there seemed to be more interest. In 1867-68 Rev. A. W. Smith was pastor; 1868-69 Rev. Green P. Jackson was pastor with Rev. John W. Hannah Presiding Elder. During these last few years Trinity had very little chance for advancement because of changing ministers so often and in 1869-70 Rev. R. L. Fagin was sent as pastor but for some reason was dissatisfied and quit. Trinity was then just a station and Dr. L. O. Summers was sent to fill the unexpired time. In 1870 to 1873 Rev. T. B. Fisher was the appointed pastor with Rev. John W. Hannah Presiding Elder. During the stay of Rev. Fisher, Trinity began to show signs of improvement, until Conference sent Rev. W. M. Doyle in 1873, who resigned before finishing his charge, because of home affairs; and Rev. E. T. Hart, who was pastor of McFerrin Memorial, was given Trinity, and Rev. Hart held the two churches until 1876 when the Conference appointed Rev. R. K. Hargrove pastor. From 1877 until 1887, there are practically no records of either advancements or failures other than the pastors appointed by the Conference as follows: 1877, Rev. William Leftwich; Rev. D. C. Kelley, Presiding Elder. 1878, Rev. Bolton; Rev. D. C. Kelley, Presiding Elder. 1879-80, Rev. R. L. Hensley; Rev. John F. Hughes, Presiding Elder. From 1880 to 1888 the only ministers mentioned are: Rev. E. T. Hart and Rev. William Leftwich, but laymen who were interested in Trinity and had faith and courage kept it going. Some of these laymen and some students from Vanderbilt who helped in the pulpit were Edward K. Denton, B. H. Johnson, W. H. Cotton and Fennell P. Turner, who was later appointed pastor. In 1888 Trinity became an active church again and the Conference appointed Rev. Lewis Powell pastor. 1889, Rev. W. R. Warren; 1890, Rev. F. P. Turner pastor; 1891, Rev. J. L. Teague; 1892, Rev. R. R. Jones; 1893, Rev. H. S. McBride; 1894 and 1895, Rev. S. M. Cherry; 1896, Rev. F. E. Alford; 1897-98, Rev. Green P. Jackson; 1899, Rev. B. F. Haynes; 1900-02, E. P. Anderson; 1903, Rev. S. R. Twitty. During the early part of the year 1903 the original church building was blown down by a cyclone. Church services were then held at the old Schwab School and in 1904 Rev. B. L. Lyle was appointed pastor. During the time the congregation was having

church services at Schwab School they were working toward the rebuilding of the church and in April, 1905, the brick structure which we now have was finished. Then as had been the custom Trinity changed pastors again. Even though they were very fond of Brother Lyle, the Conference sent Rev. H. B. Blue, who went to work as did all the members of the church to pay for the new building. In 1906 Rev. R. M. Holland was appointed to Trinity and served two years and in 1908 Rev. E. D. Lewis was sent to Trinity and he too served a two-year term. 1910, Rev. George R. Allen; 1912, A. C. Couey; 1915, C. W. Hall; 1916, E. C. Atkins; 1917, T. B. Fisher, who had served as pastor in 1870, which was his first charge, and this appointment in 1917 was next to his last charge; 1918-19, J. R. Wright; 1920, Harvey W. Seay; 1921-22, Rev. B. F. Isom; 1923-24, T. W. Noland; 1924-25-26-27, B. S. Fielder; 1928, Rev. G. Kelley Robinson, who was forced to resign because of his health in May, 1931, and his unexpired term was filled by Rev. E. C. Shelton. In 1932 A. P. Walker; 1933 to 1935, Rev. W. W. Pullen; 1936-37-38, Rev. Steele. Rev. E. M. Steel was appointed in 1939 and reappointed in 1940. In 1941 Rev. W. O. Largent was appointed and served until 1945. In 1945 Rev. D. E. Hinkle came to our church and served until his retirement in 1949. Rev. A. J. Bunn served five years, 1949-1954. During the conference year 1954-55, the congregation erected the new educational building and completely remodeled and beautified the sanctuary. The plant is fully equipped for modern church work and old Trinity continues to grow.

R. B. RAWLS, *Pastor*

KELLEY'S CHAPEL

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Rev. Fountain E. Pitts, who served fifty years in the itinerant ranks of The Methodist Church, 1824-1874, conducted a camp meeting sometime before 1852 at Shady Grove Camp Ground two and a half miles from present-day Walter Hill. As a result of this camp meeting, Shady Grove Methodist Church was organized. James H. Warfield was the first pastor in 1852 and B. R. Gant was the Presiding Elder. During the Civil War Shady Grove Church was used for hospital, school and church purposes. As a result of these various uses and by so many people who did not care the building was badly abused. Walter Hill near by was becoming a community center. Since it was necessary to erect a new church building it was thought advisable to locate the building in Walter Hill. This suggestion was first made by Mr. Joseph D. Neilson, a member of the church and a merchant in Walter Hill, and who offered to donate a building

site. Finally, after much discussion, his offer was accepted. The exact date is not known when Shady Grove ceased to be used as a church building and the new building erected in Walter Hill. It must have been just prior to 1869, when a large group of members were received by Dr. Sullivan according to an old church register. The church was dedicated in 1871 by Dr. D. C. Kelley, who was Presiding Elder of the Lebanon District, in which district the new church building was located. As a result of this great dedication service Shady Grove was renamed "Kelley's Chapel."

A Woman's Foreign Missionary Society was organized in Kelley's Chapel by Mrs. S. E. Spence in 1881 and the first report was made November 28, 1881, which showed a membership of twenty-eight. There has been a society in the church ever since the first one was organized. One period for five years there were only three members and all three in one home. Reports were regularly made during this period. The Sunday school has always been a great factor in the life of the church.

The following compose the present official board: *Trustees*—Dugg Moore, E. E. Matthews, J. R. Dixon. *Stewards*—Haskel Johns, John Randolph, J. W. Bullock, John Adams, Mrs. John Adams. Rev. Louis Johnson is the popular pastor. MARY KNOTT, *Historian*

KEDRON

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The Kedron Methodist Church has a history extending back over a century. The property on which the church is located has a deed dating to 1860; however, the original deed has been lost. The exact date and origin of the transfer of this land is unknown. The first traceable date of the "Methodist Society" in the Rocky Fork community is in 1852.

The first church was a log building located a few yards south of the present building. Sometime before 1875 the present sanctuary was built. About 1900 the church "reversed directions," having new entrances cut in the eastern wall and the pulpit moved to the western end. This change came about when the road was relocated.

Since then the walls were refinished with wall board. In 1954 a church school annex was built and in 1955 gas heat was installed. This has added much to the usefulness and comfort of the building.

This church has had a varied history in terms of connections. From 1875 to 1890 the church was the central church of a six-point circuit. After that it was on the Almaville Circuit for a while, and in more recent years has been part of the Nolensville Circuit. It has been in the Murfreesboro and Columbia Districts.

The church has a membership of about eighty and, while located in a relatively static community, has potential in a large number of children and young people who are taking an active interest and part in the general program of the church.

RALPH L. KOELEMAY, *Pastor*

EPWORTH

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Epworth Methodist Church is located approximately six miles southeast of Franklin, Tennessee, on Arno Road in the Fourteenth Civil District of Williamson County. The church was formed out of a consolidation of North's Chapel and Thomas Church. Thomas Church was founded in this general community in 1853 and North's Chapel was built in 1866. The present church building, a large brick structure, was completed in 1909 and was dedicated in 1910 by Bishop Hoss. In addition to the original structure, there is attached a brick addition which consists of nine rooms, forming the Church School Department. This educational building was completed in 1952. In 1953 a six-room brick parsonage was completed. The lot was given by Miss Mary Hatcher. The parsonage was completely furnished with new furniture in 1954.

Epworth and Trinity Churches were removed from the Franklin Circuit in 1912 and formed a new pastoral charge. The following were pastors of Epworth and Trinity: W. H. Beasley, 1912; W. H. Beard, 1914; W. T. S. Cook, 1917; J. F. Tinnon, 1919; W. F. Springer, 1921; A. Faxon Small, 1922; Fred Amacher, 1923; B. T. Smotherman, 1925; W. L. Armstrong, 1927; J. B. Estes, 1928; J. M. Putnam, 1930; S. M. Keathley, 1931; E. C. Parker, 1935; George A. Allen, 1937; L. B. Blackwell, 1940; R. L. Haygood, 1942; W. L. Hayes, 1943; W. V. DeRamus, 1945; R. R. Miller, 1949; Sterling Whitley, 1950. In 1952 Epworth and Trinity were elevated into station churches. The Rev. Sterling Whitley was assigned as the first pastor of Epworth. The Rev. Donald G. White was appointed as the second pastor in 1954.

In regard to the present organization of the church, the work is highlighted with a very active church school with Mr. T. W. Bratton, the church school superintendent; the Woman's Society of Christian Service, with Mrs. George Green as the president; a Methodist Men's Club chartered 1955 under the leadership of Mr. Leonard Vaden, the president; a Wesleyan Service Guild organized in 1955 with Mrs. Howard Simmons, president; a Methodist Youth Fellowship with Mr. Cecil Lynch, president; and a Boy Scout troop sponsored by the church for the boys of the community.

The present official board consists of Mr. Jackson Noland, church lay leader and chairman; Rev. F. M. Houser, T. W. Bratton, Leonard Vaden, T. H. Alexander, Jr., James Beard, Charles Floyd, Frank Eslick, George Warren, A. P. Wiley, Cecil Lynch, Ben Smithson, Albert Measle, George Green, R. R. Zimmerman, Mrs. Leonard



Epworth

Vaden, Mrs. Herman Caldwell, Miss Mary Hatcher, Mrs. George Green, Mrs. Johnny Talley, Mrs. Jonah Pate, Mrs. T. W. Bratton, Mrs. A. P. Wiley, Mrs. Ben Smithson, Miss Elizabeth Houser, and Mr. Howard Simmons. Three honorary stewards are Mrs. J. N. Boxley, Mrs. Lula Roberts, and Mrs. F. M. Houser.

T. H. ALEXANDER, JR., *Historian*

CAMPBELLVILLE

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Methodism has been a vital force in the religious life of the Campbellsville section of Giles County for more than a century. The Methodist Church, located in the high school village of Campbellsville, thirteen miles northwest of Pulaski, holds an unbroken

link with the old Salem Methodist Church, which was organized 101 years ago.

For many years, a small but faithful band of Methodists had been worshiping in a log school building on Big Dry Creek, two miles south of Campbellsville. Finally, in 1853, they came together and the Salem Methodist Church was organized. David Jones was the first pastor to be assigned to serve the newly formed church.

The congregation continued to worship in the old log structure until the end of the War Between the States. Then a frame house of worship was erected on a nearby site and was dedicated. The congregation had thrived in the past, but now in the new house of worship the membership was growing more rapidly. Salem became one of the strongest rural churches of the section.

Hearts of many faithful saints were made sad when a tornado swept across the section during the night of Friday, March 13, 1913, razing the walls and roof of the Salem Church and scattering them over the countryside. Members went to the scene the next day, to see nothing of the building left but the foundation, floor, pews, and the organ with a kerosene lamp sitting on it, and the glass chimney still intact. In the face of the great misfortune, the members of the congregation had just as much courage to carry on, and this they did.

Friendly Cumberland Presbyterians at Campbellsville offered to share their house of worship with their less fortunate Methodist friends. Salem Church moved in with the Cumberland Presbyterians as a temporary church home. The two congregations worshiped together until a site was procured and a new house of worship could be erected. The present impressive church building took form and was completed in 1915.

In keeping with Methodism's itinerant system, ministers are assigned to untried fields and congregations see new faces in their pulpits. Under the leadership of J. K. Lee as pastor, the building program had been launched by the eighty members who had lost their house of worship in the tornado. R. M. Chenault succeeded Lee as pastor; he saw the new church building completed, and was the first pastor to preach from its pulpit.

The name of the church was destined to be changed. Under the supervision of Harvey W. Seay as District Superintendent and J. C. Elkins as pastor, the Salem Methodist Church became the Campbellsville Methodist Church in 1941. The present membership is 158, ten of whom were members of the Salem Church at the old site two miles away. The Campbellsville Church serves the village where it stands and surrounding section. At present, the church is on a four-point circuit with Berea, Olivet and Pleasant Valley.

W. J. FESMIRE, *Pastor*

NORMANDY

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

It was over 100 years ago, around 1854, when the first Methodist church building was erected in Normandy. It was a frame building which was destroyed by fire during the pastorate of Brother Cook in 1880. Immediately following the fire another one-room frame building was erected which was occupied for thirty-six years when the congregation bought the Church of Christ building in 1916. It was more centrally located. In 1953 this one-room building was remodeled and modernized. Today it is a brick structure, with basement, well-equipped modern kitchen, rest rooms, and a lovely worshipful sanctuary. The membership numbers 100, an active Woman's Society of Christian Service with eighteen members, with property valuation of \$30,000. Rev. Mitchell Sawyer is our popular pastor.

MRS. ASHTON WOOD

EBENEZER

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Ebenezer Methodist Church has served the Hustburg community for 100 years. The records show that in 1854 a four-acre tract was deeded to the Methodist Church by John Jackson for the sum of \$50. On this lot a building was erected just in front and a little to the right of the present building. The first building was used for church and also for school purposes. It is supposed the name "Ebenezer" was taken from 1 Samuel 7:12 which states the word Ebenezer means "The Stone of Help."

No record of the pastors who served the church prior to 1888 has been found. The parsonage was bought from Neely Dixon in 1888. Since this year the following pastors have served the church: White, 1888-89; Bransford, 1890; Cherry, 1890-92; Harris, 1892-95; Sanders, 1896-99; Davidson, 1900-01; Hart, 1902-03; Reeves, 1904-05; Chenault, 1906-09; Jones, 1910-11; Lantz, 1912-13; Tom Conventon, 1914; Isaiah Parish, 1915-18; Smotherman, 1919-20; Tom Wilson, 1921-22; B. H. Parker, 1923-26; Hogan, 1927; Burden, 1928-29; John Chenault, 1930; Marshall, 1931-32; Hodge, 1933-34; Frank Marshall, 1935 (one-half year); Dodson, 1935 (one-half year); Haley, 1936-37; Argo, 1938-39; Hardison, 1940-43; Burton, 1944; Fryer, 1945; Jones, 1946; Mitchell, 1947; Bennet, 1948-49; Coleman, 1950-51; Crutcher, 1952 (one-half year); Burke, 1952-55.

The building as it now stands was erected in 1893 during the pastorate of Rev. Harris. The parsonage was overhauled in 1916.

The Sunday school rooms and kitchen were erected in 1952. The gas heating system was installed in 1954. Throughout the century the church has advanced from kerosene lights to electric lights; from wood and coal heating to gas heating. Preaching services twice a month and the annual revival of religion, Sunday school weekly and prayer services or Bible study most of the time. We also have a W.S.C.S. and young people's organization. The church membership today is 150. For many years Ebenezer was the only church in the community.

MARION C. MIMMS, *Historian*

GREENWOOD

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The Greenwood Methodist Church, located within the Fifteenth Civil District of Dickson County, was organized in a log church known as Walnut Grove Schoolhouse which was located about five miles southwest of the present site approximately 100 years ago (1854).

The Rev. J. M. (Jim) Heath, a local preacher and landowner, is given the credit for the organization.

About the year 1876, Rev. J. M. (Jim) Heath donated six acres of land which is the present location. The community, under the leadership of Rev. J. M. Heath, erected a log meetinghouse which stood until 1899.

About this time Rev. J. W. Gilbert was sent to the circuit of which Greenwood was a part. Under Rev. Gilbert's pastorate of four years the present frame sanctuary was built. J. A. Work was chairman of the building committee. W. H. Matlock was secretary and treasurer.

Records show that the largest single donation of money was made by Miss Chaffir Harris. The amount was \$3.00. Brother Gilbert added 100 members to the church. Nine Sunday school rooms have been added since 1936.

The Rev. Joel Fort Fowler, who is now president of Martin College at Pulaski, Tennessee, the Rev. Thornton Fowler, who is pastor of McKendree Church, Nashville, Tennessee, and Rev. James Harris, who is District Superintendent in the Louisiana Conference, have gone out from Greenwood.

J. M. PUTNAM, *Historian*

BARTH MEMORIAL

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

The history of Barth Memorial had its beginning with the untiring efforts of William Cortes who while visiting Cincinnati with

his wife was, with her, converted during the ministry of the Rev. William Ahrens, pastor of the German Methodist Church. Upon their return to Nashville both united with an English-speaking Methodist church, but neither understood the English language to adequately appreciate the services. Therefore, Mr. Cortes (pronounced Cor'-tess) petitioned Dr. William Nast in Cincinnati to send a minister to organize a German Methodist Church in Nashville. There were so few German prospects in Nashville the request was refused. Undaunted, Mr. Cortes, through the influence of Rev. P. N. Moelling of the Southern Methodist Church, evidently German, secured the assistance of Bishop Joshua Soule to convince Dr. Nast of the need of a German Methodist Church in Nashville. Consequently Dr. Nast, in 1854, appointed Rev. Philipp Barth to Nashville for the purpose of organizing a German Methodist Church which was the only one south of St. Louis. A year after his arrival, a church building was begun on a site which is now Third Avenue, North (then called College Street) just north of the present site of the Nashville Union Stock Yards. By Christmas Day, 1855, the lower floor was finished and the church was dedicated. Jacob Jungerman and Peter Jeck, prominent citizens, united with the church on the day of dedication.

During the Civil War period the church was used by the Confederate and Union armies as a hospital. When it was occupied by the Union army for hospital purposes a brother-in-law of Gen. U. S. Grant served as a chaplain for six months and later served the church as pastor for one year. Rev. Andrew Graessle, when his regiment was in Nashville during the war, often preached to the congregation. After the close of hostilities he served the congregation as pastor for five years.

On March 10, 1867, the church building was totally destroyed by fire. The pastor and congregation immediately undertook the erection of a new building at the present location on Fourth Avenue between Jefferson and Monroe Streets. It was of brick construction, the work progressed rapidly and within five months, August 4, the building was dedicated by Dr. Nast. The frame one-story parsonage was erected on a lot immediately south of the building in 1873.

In 1880 the translated records show "deep concern that many of the early members are moving away from what used to be a fine residential area, into the country." The country referred to is present-day East Nashville, West Nashville and Belle Meade. The church membership was reduced to sixty-five and the Sunday school enrollment to ninety-two.

The fiftieth anniversary was celebrated in 1904. It was a great day in the life of this German church. Rev. Andrew Graessle, who served as a chaplain when the building was used as a hospital during the

Civil War and as pastor for five years following the close of the war, delivered the anniversary address. In spite of so many members moving to the country, the membership had increased to 110 adults and the Sunday school had an enrollment of 115. Rev. C. G. Fritche was the popular pastor.

The following interesting resolution was adopted October 12, 1911: "Resolved that hereafter we shall have English services in the morning every last Sunday in each month." At the same official board meeting, grief was expressed that the large circular stained-glass window showing "Christ in Gethsemane," "a gracious gift by Brother Lentz," had not been delivered.

During the pastorate of Rev. Ernest Werner the church began to deteriorate, as the following indicate: April 23, 1920, Mr. Hertenstein raised the question of closing the church. July 12, 1920, Sunday evening services were discontinued. October 29, 1920, the salary of the pastor was "left open." January 19, 1921, a special meeting was held to "weed out names no longer to be carried."

The Nashville District Methodist Laymen's Club in 1945 sponsored the Nashville City Mission. Barth Memorial, Annie Morrison Smith Memorial, and Sixty-First Avenue became the chief centers in the new mission. The Mission is growing rapidly under the leadership of Rev. W. T. Steele, who possesses the true missionary spirit and who served several years in China as a missionary. The creation of the City Missions seems to have given Barth Memorial a new lease on life with fine prospects of many years of service.

JOHN L. VAN NESS, *Historian*

FAGAN'S CHAPEL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

In the year 1855 the property for Fagan's Chapel was deeded by W. M. Lane to the trustees, who were James W. Christian, W. H. Neblett, and J. H. Caldwell. A log church was built. The first minister was Robert L. Fagan, after whom the church was named.

The church was kept up from time to time but the first major remodeling was done during the pastorate of J. W. Kelly, 1940-43, when Sunday school rooms were added. The sanctuary was completely redecorated while A. C. Parker was here, 1950-53.

Up to the present time, January, 1956, there have been forty-seven pastors at Fagan's Chapel Methodist Church.

SIDNEY M. STINE, *Pastor*

BASCOM

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Bascom Church, which is eight miles northwest of Waverly in Humphreys County, Tennessee, officially began on December 19, 1855, when Jacob Browning deeded the Methodist Church, and the Big Richland Society in particular, a plot of land on which to build a church.

A log church was immediately built and was used until about 1870, at which time it burned.

A move was started to rebuild the church; and during the time of building the congregation held its worship services in Halls Creek Presbyterian Church.

In 1872 the new church was finished and its name changed to Bascom.

During its century of service to the community it has given two men to the ministry, Charles Knight and Earl C. Parker. At the present time Brother Parker is one of the chaplains of the Tennessee Conference serving with the United States armed forces.

Today after a century of service it still stands as an active memorial to Christian faith and endeavor. J. W. JARRELL, JR., *Pastor*

FLYNN'S LICK

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Flynn's Lick Methodist Church was organized before the Civil War by Lorenzo Dow. At times the church has been a part of the Lebanon Circuit, the Chestnut Mound Circuit and the Gainesboro Circuit. At the present time it is a part of the Granville Circuit.

The present building was erected in 1914 on the Fort Blount Road under the pastorate of J. O. Crawford. The ground was donated by H. L. Ball. The building was moved in 1948 during the pastorate of A. L. Davis to the present location on Highway 53. The present site was given by Fred Haile.

The membership at the present time is approximately sixty-five.

Those who entered the Christian ministry from this church were Larry Anderson and Joshua Haile.

I. B. PENNINGTON, JR., *Pastor*

KINGSTON SPRINGS

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

A small group of God-fearing people in the 1850's became possessed with a desire for congregational worship. As a consequence they began meeting in a residence located on what is today called

"Schoolhouse Hill." This was the beginning of Kingston Springs Methodist Church. The Civil War interfered with the progress of the new church and it was not until after the close of the war in 1866 that a building was erected adjacent to the cemetery. Rev. W. J. Hunter, W. K. Hickman, W. D. Cherry were the principal leaders in the building enterprise. The church only had thirty members at this time.

The second church building was erected in 1903 upon a lot better located which was donated by Major M. L. Moore and his wife, Nannie F. Moore. The deed was executed May 5. The church was dedicated in July, 1906, by the Presiding Elder of the Dickson District, Rev. W. H. Johnston. The pastor, Rev. J. R. Reeves, and the former pastor, Rev. Wood Bouldin, assisted Dr. Johnston in the dedicatory exercises. A great congregation was present and it was a red-letter day for Methodism in the Kingston Springs community. The church membership today is nearly 100.

DALY THOMPSON, JR., *Pastor*

COOKEVILLE

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The area in which Cookeville is located was served by Methodist circuit-riding preachers for many years prior to the establishment of Cookeville in 1854 by enactment of the State Legislature as the county seat of the new Putnam County. According to the minutes of the Tennessee Conference, Cookeville was listed first as an appointment in 1857. It was then in the Carthage District, and Ferdinand S. Petway was appointed Presiding Elder; Corna Freeman was appointed as pastor; and William Jared, supply. In the statistical table



Cookeville—First Church

of the Conference Journal of 1858, the first year that Cookeville was reported, there were 242 members, as follows: 182 white members, 39 white probationers, 15 colored members, one colored probationer, and five local preachers.

Existing records do not reveal the exact date of the organization of the church, but indicate the year 1855. The congregation worshiped in the Courthouse until a frame meetinghouse was finished early in 1857. This building was shared for several years with other religious groups, though it was owned by the Methodists. It was located on a lot just south of the building now occupied by the Poteet-Flatt Hardware Company. A lot on the Spring Street end of the present site was bought, and a brick building was erected here in 1895. The building served admirably until 1910 when it was remodeled to almost double the seating capacity. The church continued its growth and a few years later an adjoining lot was acquired to help care for the expanding Sunday school and church attendance. In the meantime a full size basement was finished and a pipe organ was installed.

The present excellent edifice was begun in 1949, during the pastorate of H. Thornton Fowler, and completed in 1952. The educational building of twenty-four classrooms, ladies' parlor, nursery, chapel, and fellowship hall, including a fully equipped electric kitchen, was first completed. The congregation worshiped then in the fellowship hall until the completion of the sanctuary in the fall of 1952. The service of "Opening for Worship" was conducted on November 23, 1952. The pastor, W. Bruce Strother, presided, and the District Superintendent, S. Dewey Organ, delivered the first sermon. The sanctuary with its splendid pipe organ, beautiful memorial windows, pastor's study and church office compares favorably to any church edifice in a city the size of Cookeville.

Cookeville Methodist Church was made a station by the Annual Conference in 1911. In 1913 the 100th session of the Tennessee Annual Conference was entertained here. The church, together with Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, had the honor of entertaining the 1955 session of the Conference.

The church is endeavoring to render an effective ministry to the Methodist students at Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, and was notified in February, 1955, that the Wesley Foundation, centering at the church, had been given the status of a regular standard Wesley Foundation.

The membership of the church is 1,097, as of March 8, 1955.

RALPH WIRT, *Chairman*

MARY BARBOUR

L. M. BULLINGTON

Committee

PALESTINE

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The Palestine Church is located a few miles south of Springfield, Tennessee, on the the White's Creek Pike. The congregation was organized and property was deeded for the use of the Methodist Church by W. D. Huddleston on December 21, 1857. The trustees are listed as: W. M. Kizer, E. K. Gilliam, John Demumbrum, John McAfee, W. C. Huddleston, and John Mansker. The original building was of log construction and served until about 1893. It was then replaced by the present frame structure. E. L. Benton relates having attended one of the first free schools in the area which was conducted in the old log building. He, as a carpenter, aided in the construction of the present church. Nearby there is a cemetery in which many of the faithful have been laid to rest during the years. It is today attached to the Red River Circuit. There are 134 full members.

JAMES F. SWINEY, JR., *Pastor*

BERLIN

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

As a result of a Brush-Arbor meeting, Berlin church was organized in 1857 with about twenty-five charter members. The original building, which was the first church in the locality, is still in use. The church was formerly on the circuit with Macedonia, Glenn's Chapel, and Lebanon. Until 1955 the charge parsonage was located in the Berlin community, but was then sold at auction, and a new manse was purchased at Lewisburg to be more centrally located between Farmington, Verona, and Caney Springs, the other churches on the charge.

GEORGE JONES, JR., *Pastor*

MT. CARMEL

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

There were forty charter members when Mt. Carmel Methodist Church was organized by Rev. Abraham Custer in 1858. The following eight were received on profession of faith July 1, 1858: Martha J. Banks, Herriet A. Banks, Elizabeth Martin, John N. Douglas, Catherine Isbell, Nancy Coulson, Martha M. Coulson, and Ann Martin. Also the old record shows that on October 11, 1858, the following six members were received on profession of faith: David Coulson, Mary Martin, Mancy Nichols, N. Nichols, Mary E.

Jones, and Patsy Mathews. On the same day sixteen were received by church certificate.

The present structure was erected in 1946 during the pastorate of Rev. J. C. Sandusky. The building committee was composed of the following: Elgie Spears, Robert Lefeavers, and Alto Cunningham. It is a comfortable and serviceable building with gas heat in all the rooms. The church has a membership of 100, a well-organized church school, W.S.C.S. and a M.Y.F.

JAMES E. EDDING, *Pastor*

CORINTH

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Corinth Methodist Church is located in Robertson County and belongs to the Barren Plains Circuit in the Ashbura community. In 1858, John Ashabrunner and Elisha Willis sold a building lot, upon which the present building stands, to the following trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South—Nathan Russell, Benny C. Moize, James O. K. Willis, Vincent Pitt and Abram Ashabrunner. The purchase price was five dollars. The church today has membership of sixty and the enrollment of the Sunday school is thirty-six. It pays the pastor \$450 and all the apportionments in full.

GLEN A. MURRELL, *Pastor*

UNION

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

On September 24, 1859, T. W. Godwin gave the land for Union Methodist Church. The deed was filed February 6, 1860. It was on the eve of the Civil War and on account of the long war and the suffering it caused in the South, and especially in Middle Tennessee, the church was not erected until 1886. Mr. George W. Bushton was the builder. The trustees were: Joseph B. Petty, William M. Lockhart, John Adkinson, Eli R. Beasley, and Bedford K. Shaw. For a number of years the Cumberland Presbyterian, the Free Will Baptist, and the P.D. Baptist used the building also on specified weeks to avoid confusion. This was a common practice in many communities in that period. Only the Methodist church occupies the building at the present time.

Prior to the erection of the present building, a log church with slab seats was used. Before the old log church building the congregation worshiped in the open at a spring near the present building.

H. H. PARSONS, *Pastor*

TULIP STREET

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

One of East Nashville's oldest Methodist Churches, Tulip Street, has a romantically interesting, ninety-five-year history. Mr. D. D. Dickie, a businessman who was deeply religious, erected a frame house on Fatherland Street for a mission Sunday school. In this building preaching services for the people in general were conducted for some time and a Methodist Sunday school was organized in 1858. Services were conducted here until the building of old Tulip Street Church in 1860.

At the session of the Tennessee Conference Oct. 12, 1859, the Rev. William Burr was appointed pastor to "Edgefield, Russell Street, and Trinity." The church was first called "Russell Street" but the Conference of 1860 called it "Tulip Street," named for the street on which it was located, now South Fifth Street. A building committee was appointed, a large two-story brick church was soon partially completed and the lower floor occupied as a place of worship in 1860. The Conference of 1865 was held at Tulip Street Church with Bishop Kavanaugh presiding. The second story of the church was still unfinished but rough steps were built and plank seats arranged in the second story and the Conference was made as comfortable as possible.

During the first pastorate of Dr. J. B. West in 1889, a movement was inaugurated to build a new church located at the corner of Russell and Sixth Streets, the property purchased at a cost of \$5,625. In May, 1890, during the pastorate of Dr. T. A. Kerley, ground-breaking ceremonies were held and on May 16, 1891, the cornerstone of the present church was laid; Bishop O. P. Fitzgerald officiating. This was during the first year of the pastorate of the Rev. J. B. Erwin. The new church was completed and solemnly dedicated on Sunday, September 18, 1892. The cost of the new church, including the lot and furnishings, was \$58,220.12. At the close of the Tennessee Centennial Celebration, 1897, Tulip Street Church purchased the chimes and placed them in her tower where ever since they have rung out sweet gospel songs.

The house and lot adjoining Tulip Street Church on Russell Street were bought in 1921 and used as an annex to relieve the crowded conditions in the church school. During the pastorate of the Rev. B. B. Pennington the present Christian Education Building was erected at a cost of \$50,000. and was dedicated December 17, 1939.

Tulip Street Church has been responsible for launching three other Methodist Churches and expects soon to project a fourth. She has sent several young men into the ministry of the Tennessee Conference

and now has others in training. In recent years Tulip has made rapid strides forward in membership, in missionary activity and intensive service to the needs of a changing community. Her people are loyal, her future prospects bright. There are about 900 members.

MRS. THELMA G. LACKEY, *Historian*

CLAYSVILLE

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Claysville Methodist Church grew out of a Methodist Class Meeting composed of four families in 1860: two Brawles and two Crook families. These families lived in log cabins near the present church building. The Civil War scattered that little band of Methodists in several directions. The Claysville community was not a desirable place for Southern Methodists to live during the Civil War. One of the difficulties grew out of the fact that Captain Crocket Crook who was a leader of the Methodist Class at Claysville enlisted a company of soldiers and led them into the Southern Army.

Conditions became more favorable to the Methodists when in 1872, Thomas Noland of Lynsville came to Tennessee and located at Claysville. He purchased several acres of land that embraced the location of the Methodist Church. They were Methodists and started prayer meetings and preaching services in their home. A Methodist church grew out of these religious services and a hewn log church building was erected. It was dedicated by Rev. R. A. Kelley. This log building was supplanted in 1947 by a new block building erected on the same site. It was dedicated in 1949 under the direction of Rev. C. C. Coleman.

G. C. SELF, *Pastor*

UNION

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

Near 1860 the Union Methodist Church was organized and a log house built on the land given by Bob Scoby. The earliest record of any service is a Church Conference Jan. 18, 1881. Following are some of the pastors who served the church during that early period: W. R. Tucker, J. R. Crump, P. L. Darnell, B. S. Ferral, and P. A. Sewell; J. J. Ransom was presiding elder at that time. This tract of land on which the old building stood was traded to Will Clemons for the land on which the present building now stands. Pastors who served this period are John J. Pitman, N. B. S. Owens, Charles E. Heriges, P. L. Darnell, Frazier Cochran, B. I. Smotherman, and L. L.

Cullum; W. B. Lowery was presiding elder. The Union Methodist Church is located four miles from Lebanon on the Tater Pealor Road.

JOHN B. MOOREHEAD, *Pastor*

BLANTON'S CHAPEL

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Blanton's Chapel has a deed showing that Willis Blanton gave an acre of land for church and school purposes in 1860. A log building was erected on this land and was used until 1900. At this time a frame building was built and used until 1916.

In 1889 two acres of land was given for a school near the church and the school was built.

There are many interesting stories and tales told of things that took place in the early days of the church when it was served by a circuit rider preacher. John O. Blanton was one of the first to serve Blanton's Chapel. He had many duties. Aside from his regular duties of preaching, baptizing and officiating at the burial of the dead, he was often called upon to perform marriages. Regardless of where the ceremony took place, he always endeavored to keep the ritual solemn, beautiful and sacred. Waiting for him one summer day at a ford in the creek near Blanton's Chapel was a young couple on horseback who, after making their intentions known, were happily united by the Circuit Rider in a beautiful and unusual ceremony. The participants, on horseback, marched down the silver aisle of the creek to a shady bower of branches and vines overhanging the cool, flank-deep water where the vows were exchanged to the bridal chorus of birds. When the groom attempted to kiss his bride, overanxious for his embrace, she leaned too far from her saddle, losing her balance and falling, with a splash, between the two horses, one of which lifted his foot, setting it down on her floating skirt in such a way as to pull it off. Quickly as he could the minister raised his eyes to Heaven asking a short blessing for the embarrassed couple, and rode from the retreat without looking back.

Dinner on the ground, after a big meeting, was a happy occasion in those days. Once, just as the women of the community had spread a feast upon the ground, a dog jumped a rabbit in the woods near by. Both animals went in leaps and bounds down the full length of the "spread." The chase over, the ladies were so dismayed at the disorder that the preacher, without taking a close look, volunteered to eat all the meat, bread, and pies that had been leaped over or into. On closer inspection it was seen that it was mostly the pies that had suffered; and the circuit rider, rather than eat his words, ate the pies and it was he who suffered.

Brother Blanton was seen often riding across the Devil's Backbone with an Angel by his side. The Devil's Backbone is a spiny ridge near Blanton's Chapel on which a family by the name of Angels lived.

In 1916 land was given and deeded to trustees of the Blanton's Chapel Methodist Church and a new church was built. This is the church building that is still being used. In 1941 four Sunday school rooms were added. Each year some improvements are made including better seats, electric lights, redecoration, new floors, gas heat, much improvement to outside of building and many other improvements. At present more Sunday school rooms and a choir loft are being planned.

Most of our preachers for the past several years have been students who could fill their appointments and attend classes at Middle Tennessee State College and Vanderbilt.

Today, as was done long ago, there are "dinner on the ground" days. Now we have a modern concrete table so there is no danger of a reoccurrence of the rabbit and dog episode.

Blanton's Chapel Methodist Church, noted for its singing, is part of the Manchester Circuit, along with Riverside, Goosepond, Fredonia, and Bethany. We have a Sunday school enrollment of 130. S. P. Banks is serving as superintendent. Rev. Oliver Lane is pastor. This is the second time Brother Lane has been pastor here. He was here previously from 1908-10.

ALTHA LEE LUSK, *Historian*

COLDWATER

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Coldwater Methodist Church was organized in 1860 as Smith's Chapel two miles east of the village. The building lot was deeded to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, by Alfred R. Smith, December 12, 1860, for the sum of \$5.00. This building was sold to the Negro Baptist church in Coldwater in 1912.

April 20, 1912, the Negro Baptist church in Coldwater sold to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, one acre of land in Coldwater for one hundred dollars. Upon this lot the present church building was erected in the spring of 1913 during the pastorate of Rev. J. A. Allison. The original building has been improved from time to time to meet the needs of modern church work. In 1951, during the pastorate of Rev. R. E. Stevenson, a basement and furnace were installed. In 1953, running water and additional furniture were installed. The building is well equipped for modern country church activities. Blanche and Coldwater became a half station in 1952.

The present parsonage was erected during the pastorate of Rev. W. A. Bass, 1940-1942, who was the chief inspiration and workman in its erection in Blanche. In 1953, the parsonage was greatly improved with the addition of a room, bath, modern fixtures, venetian blinds, other improvements on the house and grounds. Coldwater Methodist Church paid its proportionate part of the total expenditures.

A. R. HOGAN, *Pastor*

THETA

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Theta Methodist Church is a continuation of Mt. Zion which was located in Grand Valley about 1860, where services were conducted regularly until August, 1905. It was finally decided that it would be best for the congregation to relocate the church in nearby Theta. Therefore, on May 8, 1905, the trustees—T. C. Hawkins, B. P. Dalton, E. E. Tucker, W. E. Cox, and K. S. Dalton—purchased from John W. Bassham and wife, Minnie Bassham, a tract of land for thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) in Theta upon which to erect a church building. September 15, 1908, the trustees purchased additional land, one and three-fourths acres, from John W. Bassham and wife for thirty dollars (\$30.00). The old Mt. Zion church was torn down and the materials were used in the erection of the new church in Theta. At the time of erection the building was valued at \$1,700. When the Mt. Zion church was moved to Theta in 1905, the circuit parsonage was also established there on a tract of land consisting of three and one-fifth acres, for sixty-five dollars (\$65.00).

The Theta Circuit was first composed of Theta, Burwood, Polk's Chapel, Greenbrier, and Bethel. The charge lines were rearranged several times as conditions and situations changed. Theta, Greenbrier, Union, and Garrison now constitute the circuit.

In addition to the regular church services the activity of the congregation center around the Sunday school and the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

H. H. PARSONS, *Pastor*

TRINITY

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Before the Civil War there was a church "beyond Burke Hollow," three or four miles beyond the site of Trinity, called Mt. Zion, and

during the war Federal soldiers wrecked this building and used the logs to build a barracks on Daddy's Knob. Ultimately the Federal Government paid \$1,100 in compensation.

In September, 1865, land was purchased from Thomas Walker Cunningham and the first building, a two-story brick, was constructed. The lower floor, one large room, was the place of worship for Trinity Church and the second floor was used for a school and a Masonic Lodge, called Marshall's Hall.

The lumber used was sawed from logs cut on the site and hauled to the mill and the bricks were burned on the property under the supervision of John McMahon. The building was completed in 1869, had a seating capacity of 250, and was valued at \$4,000.

Trinity and North's Chapel Churches were together for years as Harpeth Circuit. Rev. A. F. Lawrence was the first pastor at Trinity and Rev. W. Burr was the first Presiding Elder. George W. Pollard, J. G. Herbert, John McMahon and Major Jacob T. Page were the first stewards of the church.

Trinity's first Woman's Missionary Society was organized April 26, 1884, and in 1897, while Rev. W. B. Taylor was pastor, Trinity had the banner Epworth League of Franklin District.

In November, 1897, a tornado struck and completely destroyed the church with only the organ, pulpit, and pulpit Bible and a few benches being saved. These were moved to a vacant store where services were held until the church could be rebuilt.

Charlie Curren and Miss Mattie Couch were the first couple to be married in the new Trinity Church. Aunt Rilla Shannon, a faithful Negro sexton for twenty-five years, was a member of Trinity Church and always took Sacrament at the close of the service, invariably shouting, "My Redeemer liveth, hallelujah!"

On April 29, 1909, Trinity Church was again struck by a high wind, with the tower and the north and east walls being blown out, but within two and a half months the building was again ready for use. In 1911, Rev. B. L. Lyle, pastor, reported 241 in Sunday school, the highest in the history of the church.

March 20, 1915, Rev. W. H. Baird, pastor, appointed a committee to locate and build a parsonage for Trinity and for Epworth, with which Trinity was grouped then and until 1952. Completed in August, 1918, this parsonage cost \$2,200; and when Trinity and Epworth were separated and each made a station, Epworth's share in the parsonage was bought by Trinity.

A large portion of the parsonage is being used at the present for Sunday school classes under the leadership of our present pastor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. P. R. Russell.

JESSIE SCALES PASCHAL, *Historian*

WOODLAWN

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

This I have been told:

Around 1860 the church at Woodlawn was organized. Rev. Stephen Mallory was a local preacher in the community and was the first pastor of the new church. Families who lived in the surrounding area were those of which these were a part: John Halyard, James Wilson, Alex Wood, Hugh Bullard, Jerry Bartee, John Taylor and Captain Murray. At this time the church was a small log building that was used for subscription school during the week days of perhaps three months of the year. On Sunday it was used for a church. Early in 1868 a new frame building was erected for church and the log room was retained for a school house.

This I remember:

In 1897 the old church was torn down and a more modern one was built. The preacher in charge at that time was Rev. J. L. Chenault. The building committee was composed of G. S. Caroland, chairman; Joe Norfleet, Jim DuBose, and Rev. J. L. Chenault. A neighbor, Mr. C. A. Caroland, was chosen head carpenter with helpers Lewis Meacham, Mr. Sam Robertson, and a colored man by the name of Dick Shelby. Early in 1898 the new church was completed and on a beautiful Sunday in May, 1898, Woodlawn Church was dedicated.

Since that time Woodlawn church has had an evergreen Sunday school and regular preaching services twice each month. The church has weathered periods of depression and enjoyed times of progress and prosperity. In 1941, a blow was struck Clarksville District when Fort Campbell established and absorbed two of its churches—Asbury and Stampers Chapel. The camp reservation took many homes of Woodlawn members and much of the church congregation was scattered to other sections. The small membership that was left despaired *not*—fully aware that God's cause would triumph in due time. However the survival, hard, long and hazardous, was accomplished as a new church was born where Stamper's Chapel membership made Woodlawn its "church home," bringing new membership, stewardship, much prosperity and many new activities into being.

Today the average Sunday attendance is eighty. The Sunday school roll increased until there had to be more room. In May, 1950, it was decided to build four new rooms, which were furnished, finished and dedicated September 17, 1951. On August 6, 1952, a new parsonage was started for Montgomery Charge in the Woodlawn churchyard. On October 9 the same year the pastor, Rev.

Eunis Crowe, moved into the new house and served the charge until September, 1953. Rev. J. B. Choate succeeded Brother Crowe and is pastor of Montgomery Charge at the present time.

ALICE MEACHAM, *A member since 1901*

WILEE'S CHAPEL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

It was in the year 1860 that a group of citizens of the Cooper Creek community near Woodlawn, Tennessee, of Montgomery County, came together and organized the first Methodist church in that community.

Among the early people of the community and church were: Wilee, Cooper, Morrow, Lee, Kelly, Coleman, and Gannaway. One Ed Gannaway was one of the first superintendents of the Sunday school, with Berry Dunbar and Sam Kelly being superintendents soon after Mr. Gannaway.

In the year 1870 the first house of worship was built on a parcel of land lying along the banks of Cooper Creek. This parcel of land was given for the building by Ben and Riley Wilee, brothers of the Wilee family, after whom the church was named. The first building was built of logs and stood until 1918, at which time it was torn down and a new one replaced the old building on the same location. The Rev. Frank Hawkins was pastor at the time and Rev. E. M. Horrell was Presiding Elder. The Rev. Frank Hawkins was pastor again from 1934 until 1936.

In 1916 Homer Wilee, son of Ben Wilee, gave a deed for the land on which the building stood. In the summer of 1942 it was decided to move the building up on the hill a short distance from the banks of Cooper Creek to keep the waters of the creek from flowing into the building during a high rise. During the rise of back water from the Cumberland River in 1937 the water was deep enough in the building that boys of the community rode their skiff in and out its doors. Rev. J. C. Crow was pastor of the church during this moving of the church.

In August of 1942 the old building, in its new location on the hill, was dedicated. Rev. Frank L. Hawkins presided at the dedication ceremony. The occasion was made a home-coming day for many of the early members of its congregation. Dinner was served on the ground.

Today it stands, a white frame chapel, overlooking the valley and banks of Cooper Creek, which was its old location. Although most of the early members of the congregation are gone, the people still

gather on Sunday morning to worship in the house of the Lord, which to them now is the Little Chapel on the Hill. They still sing the songs that arose from the hearts and lips of their forefathers: "Come, Thou Fount" and "Sweet Hour of Prayer." And yet in a new day and age the people still receive from within its portals the blessings, the comfort, and strength to serve their God.

J. B. CHOATE, *Pastor*

FALL RIVER

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

About the year 1860, or somewhere between the years 1860 and 1865, John Hagan gave a piece of land at Fall River for a church, schoolhouse, and cemetery.

The church was built and called Hagan's Chapel, the building being used for both church and school. The trustees were C. E. Nolly, S. C. Johnston, and J. W. Smith. These with about ten other members composed the church organization.

The first minister was J. W. Rooker. The membership was composed of Nollys, Hagans, Johnstons, and Mrs. Rebecca Jane Berry.

In 1895, the church having gone down, the church grounds were sold at auction to A. C. Cantrell. This transaction was displeasing to some of the members and the land was repurchased by the trustees September 17, 1896, at the price for which it was sold.

The old church was torn down and a new building was erected nearer the spring. The name was, at this time, changed from Hagan's Chapel to the Fall River Methodist Church.

In 1942-43 a new and better church was built. It is composed of approximately sixty members with A. J. Irvin as the present pastor.

Those entering the ministry from this place were Elbert Shands, Jesse Smith, Elmer Howell, Mitchel Bivens, and Howard Springer.

A. J. IRVIN, *Pastor*

CARROLL STREET

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Claiborne Chapel Station, located on Maury Street, one block off Filmore Street, now Hermitage Avenue, was organized in 1860 and its membership of 124 faithful persons became charter members of Carroll Street Methodist Church, South. The earliest existing record is the written minutes of Quarterly Conference held November 11,

1871, Rev. Henry Hogan, pastor in charge, and Rev. John W. Hanner, Presiding Elder of the Nashville District.

Quarterly Conference of Claiborne Chapel Station, held April 27, 1872, Rev. Hanner presiding, entertained a motion that the trustees be instructed and empowered to sell Claiborne Chapel and lot for the purpose of building a new church on another site. Motion carried. Sale of said chapel and lot was made to W. L. Nace, agent, for \$800, date of transfer November 16, 1874, at which date Rev. W. D. Sawrie was preacher. Meetings of the congregation were held after the sale in Jones Factory and at 188 Filmore Street. Rev. Joseph G. Myers was the new preacher in 1875 and Rev. Hargrove Presiding Elder. The board of trustees met at home of M. L. Blanton and a building committee was named: R. A. Young, John Davis, and Joseph D. Hamilton. In July, 1876, this committee reported \$1,750 in subscriptions with prospect of increasing the amount to \$2,000. Work on the new church began in October, 1876. Selection of the new site was made by R. T. Roland, S. H. Waggoner and E. D. Larue.

Deed for the new location, present city number 61 Carroll Street, Nashville, Tennessee, reads in part as follows, "have this day bargained and sold and do hereby transfer and convey unto J. M. Fraily, D. L. Drake, Daniel Miller, George White, Henry Harman, and John G. Castleman, Trustees of the Claiborne Chapel Station, Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and their successors and assigns, as such trustees for the consideration of \$452.00." Said conveyance was made by I. H. Nelson and G. A. Nelson November 19, 1874, and is recorded in Book 52, pages 145 and 146, Records of Davidson County.

Rev. W. H. Wilkes was sent to the congregation meeting at 188 Filmore Street in November, 1876. Work continued, mostly voluntary, on the new church and the third Quarterly Conference for the year was held April 7, 1877, in the unfinished church. Sunday school enrollment was 233 with highest attendance 205. Five hundred thirty-four books were in the library. From the report of Pastor Wilkes we quote: "February 11, 1877 we held our first service in Carroll Street Church, our house unplastered and supplied with temporary seats. Morning sermon by Bishop H. N. McTyeire. At this date, Apr. 7th we are still in the same unfinished condition. Notwithstanding our want of comfort our congregation has more than doubled."

Work continued through the summer and September 23, 1877, Pastor Wilkes reported: "The basement of the church has been floored, permanent columns installed, doors, windows, gas (for light) and the upper or main audience room plastered and calcimined, and all wood and tin work outside has been painted except graining and

finishing the doors." J. D. Hamilton of the building committee reported at this meeting that \$4,239.54 had been collected and paid out for erection of church." Further record shows that at completion the church cost, exclusive of donated labor, \$7,206.98.

Excerpts from report of trustees August 31, 1878: "We have one church valued at \$8,000.00. Seating capacity 600. No parsonage. One pipe organ \$400. One reed organ \$75. We are happy to report your church *free from debt.*"

More than forty pastors have served the congregation since 1871. Interesting to note that in earlier years the pastor was superintendent of the Sunday school; however, our records show ten men who have served most acceptably in that position. The longest period of service was forty-three years given by Lon A. Tanksley.

Among the preachers who have gone out from this church to proclaim the good news of our Christ were Rev. Henry B. Blue and Rev. E. P. Anderson, both of whom very graciously served the



Carroll Street

church, Rev. Anderson, 1903-06, and Rev. Blue, 1906-10. In later years Rev. L. M. Rothenberg, Rev. Thomas Wildford Mayhew and Rev. Floyd Hooker entered the ministry.

Young men of Carroll Street Church entered the armed services and many were in the Expeditionary Forces to France of the First World War. Scores of young men answered the call of 1941 to the armed services, the navy and the air corps, some of whom never returned to their church or their homes.

In times of financial stress this church has consistently maintained its faith in God and through all the years has kept the goal before us established by our trustees of long ago to keep "the church free from debt."

The membership grew rapidly in the earlier years and the attendance upon worship reached its highest during the years when Peabody College and Vanderbilt Schools were located in this part of the city. So far as we are able to ascertain the largest number of members received into the church in a single conference year was 100 by the Rev. Bruce L. Lyle, whose visitation and house-to-house prayer meetings were most outstanding.

God has honored many members of Carroll Street Church with long and useful lives and a memorial tablet on the left wall of the auditorium witnesses to this truth.

Our oldest living member is Etta Harman Gwyn, daughter of Henry C. Harman, trustee of Claiborne Chapel. Her membership has continued unbroken for seventy-seven years.

Brady M. Gattis, a member of Carroll, was recommended by the second Quarterly Conference of 1955, to the Nashville District Conference for license to preach. (The District Conference will meet at Inglewood, Monday, April 25, at 2:00 P.M.)

G. W. CLARIDGE, *Historian*

COLLEGE GROVE

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The original two acres for the church was purchased from Samuel Webb for \$240.00 by the following trustees: W. Nolen, A. Scales, W. Haley, T. Braden, and W. Webb. The deed was recorded in June, 1861. In 1948 an adjoining strip of land was given to the church by M. B. Scales. When the first building was standing, there was by the side of it a school building which was called "The Female College." When the name "College Grove" was given to the community there were two colleges—male and female.

The present church edifice is the second to occupy the original

site. It was built in 1888 by T. G. Slate and was dedicated in 1889 during the pastorate of Rev. W. B. Lowry. At that time the church was on a pastoral charge composed of Greenwood, Promise, Edwards Grove and College Grove. At various times during its long history, College Grove was associated with Eagleville, Triune, Wesley Chapel. Sunday school rooms were added in 1932; the basement was built in 1948; stained-glass windows, the organ and new lighting system were installed in 1952. The church became a station in 1955.

Dating from the last few years of the old building, the following pastors served the church: J. B. McFerrin, W. Doss, W. B. Lowry, R. W. Seay, B. H. Johnson, G. B. McPeak, R. N. Chenault, W. V. Jarrett, G. S. Byrom, E. W. Brown, C. S. Gabbard, D. B. Coleman, R. S. Tinnon, G. F. Morelock, W. T. S. Cook, L. W. Stewart, W. H. Baird, W. E. Couser, M. K. Harwell, H. Owen, H. E. Baker, Paul F. Lanius, Marshall Lovell, R. S. Lee, T. R. Witt, George Davenport, J. L. Coomer, N. O. Allen, J. E. Howard, W. L. Harwell and L. Dunn.

The following are the present trustees: W. C. Lanier, Mrs. A. E. Jaqueth, J. D. Wilson. The following compose the board of stewards: D. H. Carpenter, M. F. Clendenin, E. C. Cromer, R. E. Culberston, Miss J. Demonbreun, C. B. Haley, A. E. Jaqueth, C. D. McKee, S. R. Ogilvie, A. R. Parks, Jr., M. B. Scales, and E. Tucker.

ALFRED E. JAQUETH, *Historian*

WESLEY'S CHAPEL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Wesley's Chapel Church, present location, one-half mile east of Yellow Creek near mouth of Cedar Creek. First site of church was about one mile up from present location on east side of Yellow Creek. It was first called Wesley's Chapel at Quarterly Conference held there May 16, 1863. No record of names or number of charter members is available. However, we find that it was a live, thriving church, reaching a total membership of 198 fifty years ago. Present membership is thirty-eight. The old church was sold several years ago and the present membership worships in the school building which is not used for school. It was the home church of one of our own Methodist ministers of years ago, Brother W. T. Nesbitt. Like other churches of this circuit, from its altar have gone several ministers, doctors, teachers, professional and business men and women to be good parents and Christian citizens and have become assets to the church, community and home life where they contacted it, because of the godly impact of the church called Wesley's Chapel on their lives.

RYTA M. BISHOP, *Historian*

PLEASANT VALLEY

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

From its beginning, the community of Pleasant Valley has attracted to it those who have felt a deep desire to establish their hearthstones amid surroundings that manifested God's bounty in plowed fields, flowing water and sheltering hills.

The close of the War Between the States found no church and no school building in the neighborhood, and the bereft hearts of the people yearned for the comfort of a place of worship. The early meetings of prayer and planning were held in a blacksmith shop, and in this simple, toilsome atmosphere, the decision was made to begin the building of a church at the foot of a hill near Whitaker Branch, nine miles north of Pulaski. A plot of grassy land donated by James E. Abernathy and wife, and Elizabeth Denty, Mrs. Abernathy's mother, contained a splendid spring of water. Here the horses could be tethered during the services, resting after carrying over the rough roads the Sunday-clothed families, the women using the sidesaddles of the day.

Volunteer labor was used to build the original frame structure which was completed in the fall of 1867, and used also as a school-house. Near by was the neighborhood grist mill; the activities of the daily living of the community were centered here. The Rev. R. W. Belamy was the opening preacher at Pleasant Valley Methodist Church, and records show that only seven were listed as charter members. At times since then membership has reached 135; the present number is eighty-eight. Forty years after its erection, the church building was remodeled when the Rev. T. A. Cardin was serving as pastor.

One of its boy members, Irvin Turner Cameron, went forth to the Methodist ministry from Pleasant Valley Church. The high sense of duty fostered here is evidenced by the number of young men of the church and the neighborhood who have served their country at every call.

At one time Pleasant Valley and Olivet Churches were together, but in 1879 Olivet was made a station and Pleasant Valley was placed on a circuit with other churches, presently Olivet, Berea and Campbellsville. A deepening of fellowship has often been experienced through festivities that included group singing, dinner on the ground, and entertainments attended by members and friends from miles about. The Rev. W. J. Fesmire is ably serving the church as pastor at the present time.

Within these prayer-hallowed walls, many marriages have been consecrated, children of the faithful have been christened, absent

service men have been committed to God's keeping and the last blessed rites have been bestowed upon the dead. Drouth and flood, hard work and harvest, grief and the grace to bear it have been experienced by many generations of Pleasant Valley members, whose church, by a seasoned acceptance of life's trials, wordlessly proclaims "the peace of God which passeth all understanding."

MRS. W. D. ABERNATHY, *Historian*

BETHLEHEM

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The Bethlehem Church, though inactive since 1953, is still a part of the Rich Valley Charge. Its history has roots which can be traced to the year 1865 as a part of Dryden's Chapel, which was located between the present Bethlehem Church and the present Shiloh Church.

In 1890 land was granted by Mrs. Manurva E. Muse for the purpose of building the present Bethlehem Church. In 1894 the church was dedicated. At present there are still twenty-seven members whose membership is still at Bethlehem. There have been two ministers who have come from Bethlehem, Thomas F. Harrison and James Douglas Harrison.

CHARLES THAXTON, *Pastor*

OLD UNION

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

The Old Union Methodist Church was organized as a church in the Old Union school building soon after the Civil War in 1866.

Rev. James Harvy Rice was the first pastor. Rev. John F. Hughes was the Presiding Elder. On March 12, 1898, the deed to the land on which the present church now stands was signed by Mrs. Tazy Hardy to the following trustees: W. C. Campbell, J. M. Rice, W. G. Campbell, T. S. Hardy, and James Est.

The church is located on the old central pike, fifteen miles from Lebanon.

There are thirty-eight church members and thirty-six enrolled in the Sunday school.

JOHN B. MOOREHEAD, *Pastor*

HUNTLAND

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Authentic history of the Huntland Methodist Church can be traced to 1866 when the present building was a one-room log 30x40 foot structure with slab benches, built on farm of Joe Wakefield,

three miles west of the present town of Huntland. The biblical name, "Enow," church and it remained a combination church and school for a period of approximately twenty years. Among the pastors serving this early church were the Revs. Joe Myers, Jack Shasteen and Tom Haggard, with Messrs. James Johnson, John and Joe Wakefield serving as stewards.

As the town of Huntland grew, it was decided to move the church there. In 1888 the cornerstone was laid, a brick vault, containing a Bible, a county newspaper, and various other articles, on the land purchased from Col. H. R. Moore near the N. C. & St. L. Railroad. That pillar remains under the north corner today, but a one-room frame building was built, unceiled and without a belfry until the early nineties, when the ladies of the church raised money for the purchase of the bell; and Waid Templeton, now eighty-one and one of the Enow members, and Charlie Jones, Sr., hauled logs by wagon and double mule team six miles to be sawed to complete the church. Dedication service was held sometime during the year 1894. Along with Mr. Templeton, James Johnson and Dr. Neal served as stewards.

The white frame building remained the same for several years until, under the directorship of Mr. John Lucas and others, a curtained balcony was added for classrooms.

In 1951 a block sanctuary was built to the south side of the building and the original auditorium was converted into a fellowship hall and four classrooms added. A very impressive dedication service was held in 1952. All have been newly decorated and a complete kitchen has been equipped with serving facilities for eighty, sponsored by the W.S.C.S., with the present pastor, the Rev. D. R. Poole, and several laymen doing carpenter work and installing the equipment.

Recently an altar table, stand and pulpit chairs have been added. All these were designed and made of walnut by Mr. H. S. Chandler, an expert wood craftsman, who has been a member of the Huntland Church for thirty-two years.

Rev. Donald G. Chandler entered the ministry of The Methodist Church here at Huntland in 1948. Rev. Durward McCord, Jr., also entered the ministry of The Methodist Church from Huntland in 1952.

The total membership stands at 124. D. R. POOLE, *Pastor*

MT. LEBANON

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The Mt. Lebanon Church history dates as far back as the year 1866. However, little is known of its history between 1866 and 1888.

The Reverends J. S. Finley, S. H. Stricklin, Sam Smith, William Clayton, and O. O. Knight are the earliest known ministers.

The old log church was located on Brushy Creek, about eight miles west of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. It was abandoned in the early 1880's and a new frame church was erected on the ridge, near the present church site, in 1884 and 1885. The present church was started on New Year's Day, 1913, and was completed in August of 1914. The Reverend C. W. Clayton was the pastor of the church from 1911 to 1914 and was instrumental in the building of the new church.

Some of the early family names which made up the church membership were Bradleys, Claytons, Kelleys, and Adamases.

The pastors between the years 1888 and 1932 were:

Rev. T. J. Stricklin, 1888-90; Rev. F. M. Morgan, 1890-92; Rev. B. W. Blessing, 1892-97; Rev. J. F. Blankenhorn, 1897-98; Rev. W. W. Clayton, 1898-1900; Rev. A. L. Wheatley, 1900-03; Rev. J. D. Proctor, 1903-06; Rev. B. W. Blessing, 1906-10; Rev. J. D. Holland, 1910-11; Rev. C. W. Clayton, 1911-14; Rev. W. L. Hart, 1914-15; Rev. J. H. Blackwood, 1915-17; Rev. L. P. Reeder, 1917-19; Rev. P. M. Weaver, 1919-22; Rev. J. D. Proctor, 1922-23; Rev. Ben Jones, 1923-24; Rev. W. J. Fesmire, 1924-26; Rev. E. H. Jones, 1926-29; Rev. R. E. Freeman, 1929-30; Rev. J. W. Roberts, 1930-32.

The present membership is seventy-four. Reverends R. L. Freeman, Eugene Moore, G. W. Stem are among the latest pastors.

A. J. IRVIN, *Pastor*

MT. LEBANON

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The three acres of land for the Mt. Lebanon Methodist Church in Bedford County was deeded by James M. Neeley, August 9, 1867. The deed is recorded in Book 3-F, page 338. It was in the dark days of Reconstruction following the close of the Civil War two years before the deed was recorded. The trustees were E. B. Stevenson, James N. Dryden, James U. Baxter, James N. Neeley, G. T. Neeley, E. D. Jones, J. C. Paschal. The first church building was of log construction. Many years ago the frame building supplanted the original log house. The grandson of James M. Neeley, Mr. Spencer Neeley, is a member of the church and a member of the official board as a trustee. So far as we know, the church never had a large membership which today is thirty. The Sunday school also has an enrollment of thirty. The church is loyal to Methodist doctrine and tradition.

STANLEY HENLEY, *Pastor*

DICKSON

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The First Methodist Church of Dickson today is the outgrowth of unification in 1939 of the First Methodist Episcopal and the Main Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Dickson, Tennessee, was first settled after the Civil War in 1867 by a group of emigrants from Pennsylvania. In that same year they organized a Methodist church, and located it on Church Street one and one-half blocks north of the railroad, which continued to function down to unification. This community was first called Sneedsville, but because of frequent mix-ups with Sneedsville in East Tennessee it was changed to Dickson in 1869.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, organized a church in 1872, which was located on Main Street two blocks south of the railroad. In 1892 when the Dickson Normal College was established, this church moved out to a new location near the school and took the name of College Hill Methodist Episcopal Church, South. They continued to serve there until in 1922 when a new church was built on North Main Street, which is the site of the present building.

In the beginning both Methodist churches were on circuits. However, with the growth of the town, both churches became stations in the year 1879. John R. Reagan was the pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and O. L. Knight was pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, at that time.

CHARLES J. HAWKINS, *Pastor*

ROVER

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The Rover Methodist Church was organized in a brush arbor in 1868. The Rev. Rippetoe from Illinois helped to organize it. The first church was built about 1870. Men who helped build the first church were Tom Bullock, Jim Beasley, Newt Maxwell, Bob Hall, Charles Brown, Allen Wade, and Dallas Crick. There were around fifteen members when it was first organized. In 1904 the old church was partly torn down and the present auditorium was built. In 1942 the church was moved back for a new highway, and four new Sunday school rooms were built on the back. Rev. R. S. Qualls was the pastor at this time. The membership grew until more rooms were needed. In 1953 a basement was built providing three Sunday school rooms and a small kitchen. Rev. C. M. Ingram was the pastor at this time.

We now have 145 members and the Sunday school attendance averages approximately ninety. Two members who have entered the ministry were George Stem and George Gentry.

LESTER B. NAVE, *Pastor*

TRACY CITY

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

No records have been found to tell about the organization of the Tracy City Methodist Church. In the Holston Conference Journal of 1868 Tracy City and Altamont were on the same mission. In 1874 Tracy City became a station and had ninety-six members. James I. Cash was the first preacher at this station. There was no church building and services were held in a temperance hall.

In 1877 the T.C. I. Co. deeded the lot to the Methodist Church and a building was started at once. The church was dedicated in 1878 and was named Teresa Chapel for Mrs. A. M. Shook. Later it was decided to add a place for the choir and this was dedicated after this addition was completed.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Shook were the first couple to be married in the church. This was in 1888.

In 1905 Sunday school rooms were added on both sides of the building to make room for Sunday school classes. As long as the building stood, the Big Brothers had a classroom and were very active and did wonderful work all through the year and especially at Christmas time. In 1920 when B. T. Lannom was pastor the Sunday school reached an enrollment of 350.

In 1890 when L. R. Amis was pastor the parsonage was built.

There was a need for a society for the women of the church, so in 1892 the Willing Workers Society was organized and they were always very active and did great work. In 1927 the Missionary Society was organized and it took the place of the Willing Workers; then later the name was changed all over the Conference to the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

Our church building did not meet the needs of a growing church, so while Rev. Waddell Roberts was pastor the frame building was torn down and now a beautiful brick veneer, almost completed, stands on the lot.

The Wesleyan Service Guild was organized in October, 1947, and has been very active since. They bought a Hammond organ, the carpet for the sanctuary, the electric stove for the kitchen, and many other things.

Rev. W. E. Newman has been pastor of this church for the last

four years. He came when our church was in the first stage of construction and his work on the building cannot be estimated. Rev. Waddell Roberts and several men of the church also have helped with the work; and if it had not been for all of this, our church would not be as nearly finished as it is.

At the close of the conference year 1954, the membership of the church school was 297, with an average attendance of 122. The membership of the church was 360, with an average attendance of ninety at morning worship and thirty at the evening service. We closed the year with \$5,400 indebtedness, having raised in full our \$6,000 budget.

As W. E. Newman begins his fifth year with us, 1954-55, we are looking forward to a good year at Tracy City. In recognition of our obligation toward a more adequate support for the ministry, we have increased the pastor's salary from \$3,000 to \$3,600 per year. This gives us a present budget of \$7,843 for this conference year.

MRS. MABEL METCALF,
ROBERT McDONALD,
E. W. CHEEK,

Committee

MEDIUM

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Medium Methodist Church derived its name from being the center of the communities which it served—the happy medium. It is located in the village of Delina which is located seven miles west of Petersburg, midway between Lewisburg and Fayetteville on the line of Marshall and Lincoln Counties.

For a long while, Medium Methodist Church was the only church for miles around. It was known in the pioneer days and is often spoken of today by older people as the "Old Medium Camp Ground." In the camp meeting season people came long distances and camped for two or three weeks at a time for religious services which were conducted under brush arbors. To the best of my knowledge this was used as a camp ground as early as 1790 or earlier.

After the brush arbors were abandoned, a log church building was erected. It was destroyed by fire prior to 1868. That year my grandfather, Daniel Taylor, with his family moved here from Blount County and purchased the farm which included the camp ground site. He gave the land for the church and school. A large frame building was erected which was used until 1920 when a modern building was erected. Rev. M. K. Harwell was pastor.

In the early days, pastors and their families lived in the homes of members of the church. In 1896 Mr. F. M. Liles gave a lot across the road from the church, upon which a nice parsonage was erected. Rev. Wood Bouldin, who died in 1910, was the last pastor to live in the old parsonage. Rev. W. W. Charles was the first pastor to occupy the new parsonage.

Medium is very proud of the two forceful ordained Methodist preachers it sent—Rev. T. L. Darnell, who united with the Tennessee Conference in 1876 and died in 1930, and Rev. J. F. Beasley, who united with the Tennessee Conference in 1884 and died in 1928. Brother Beasley resigned his position as a teacher at Bishop School at \$50.00 per month to unite with the Tennessee Conference and was appointed to a charge that paid \$13.00 per month, by four churches, and sixteen pairs of knitted wool socks. He walked to serve his four churches. His son, R. H. Beasley, a prosperous businessman of Petersburg, has his father's saddlebags which were used in his circuit riding. He preached his first sermon in Medium Church. Brother Darnell preached his first sermon in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Wells in the Medium community. Some of the older pastors of Medium were W. B. Lowry, W. T. Gill, S. L. Fain, R. M. (Bobby) Haggard, J. P. Funk, and Wood Bouldin. Rev. J. T. Blackwood, now in his ninety-eighth year of age, was pastor in 1903. Mr. D. A. Taylor was superintendent and teacher over forty years.

Our present church membership is 134. We have an active W.S.C.S. with nineteen members, and a very active M.Y.F., which meets every Sunday night. Rev. W. M. Lantrip is our District Superintendent and Rev. W. W. Johnson is our pastor. W. L. Taylor is superintendent of the Sunday school and Mrs. Clem McDaniel is our pianist. Our church was never better organized, better housed, better financed. We are endeavoring to carry the banner of Jesus Christ as valiantly as did our ancestors.

MRS. CHARLES SULLIVAN, *Historian*

CHOATES CREEK

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

Choates Creek Methodist Church is located in Giles County on U.S. Highway 64 approximately one mile east of the Lawrence County line. Choates Creek Church dates back of 1868 but little history is available before that time. The land around the church, known in those days as the "Neck," was settled by a man named Sandusky whose three boys were Major Sandusky, Dut Sandusky, and Jake Sandusky. The Sanduskys were early leaders in the church. Other

familiar names are Father Crowder, Doc Wilkinson, Jacob Sandusky and Rev. William Clayton.

The first church at Choates Creek was a log church, but was torn down around 1875. Two German carpenters built the present church. When the Methodist Church divided in 1844, the people of Choates Creek remained with the Methodist Episcopal Church and were called the "Blue Wing."

JOHN HIGHT, *Pastor*

MARTHA'S CHAPEL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Martha's Chapel on the Antioch Pastoral Charge was organized in 1869 during the pastorate of Rev. John Reynolds. The land was donated by Mr. Jesse Bumpus. The building was completed in 1872 and dedicated the same year by Bishop W. M. Wightman. The organization of this church and the erection of its building were memorable experiences in the life of Miss Martha Mills, a most excellent young lady of the community. Since she made the largest donation toward the erection of the building, the new church was officially named in her honor. She and the Rev. Lewis Lowe were united in holy matrimony the day the cornerstone was laid and at the site of the new building.

Following were the first trustees: J. A. Ghalson, B. H. Harris, A. B. Pruett, Daniel Mills, G. Milam, and T. G. Hargrove. Following the first pastor, Rev. John Reynolds, the church has been served by A. T. Goodloe, J. W. Cullom, B. M. Stephens, J. G. Rice, W. A. Turner, G. S. Byron, W. T. Freeman, J. W. Faires, W. H. Klyce, W. T. S. Cook, J. W. Thornton, J. L. Chenault, W. J. Walkup, J. M. Oakley, P. G. Johnson, I. W. Keathley, J. H. Whitfield, B. T. Lannom, W. L. Armstrong, J. W. Swann, J. C. Elliott, R. C. Crosslin, A. W. Delk, B. H. Brandon and our present pastor, A. C. Parker.

The new Martha Chapel was begun in 1950 and is located about three hundred yards from the original site. Mr. H. C. Hargrove donated the building lot. It was dedicated January 11, 1953, by Bishop Roy H. Short, who was assisted by the District Superintendent, Rev. H. T. Tipps, a former pastor, Rev. J. C. Elliott, and Rev. J. Dallas Bass, pastor of Madison Street in Clarksville. The church has a membership of 150. Mrs. Mary Matthews, who is ninety-one years of age, is the oldest member. The future of Martha's Chapel was never brighter and was never better housed.

MRS. ALBERT C. JONES, *Historian*

WEST END

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

In the spring of 1869 a band of workers from McKendree Church organized a Sunday school on Church Street between Fifteenth and Sixteenth Avenues. The building occupied was very dilapidated, and the school was later moved into the Government Barracks (burned in 1886), which in those days stood on the corner of Fifteenth and Church. Here West End Church was organized by Dr. R. A. Young in 1869 or 1870. It was first known as the West End Mission. In 1872 the name was shortened to West End.

In February, 1874, a building site on the northeast corner of Sixteenth and Broad was purchased, and a frame building was erected at a total cost of \$5,000.00.

The population of the city was moving westward, and by 1887 West End was a church of 466 communicants. The need for a more adequate building became urgent. The new plant was completed in 1889. It was a splendid structure and very commodious for its day.

In the autumn of 1918, Dr. George W. Stoves came from Alabama to West End Church and served the church for a term of fifteen years. Under his leadership the membership of the congregation continued to grow. In 1924, it was decided that a new church building should be erected on West End Avenue in the 2100 block.

A Religious Education Building was first erected in 1929. The congregation was to worship in Neely Auditorium on Vanderbilt Campus for ten years.

In 1933 Dr. Costen J. Harrell came to the pulpit of West End Church. The congregation launched a heroic effort, determined by God's grace to complete what had been begun. The people rallied to the task. On July 20, 1937, ground was broken for the new structure with appropriate ceremony. The cornerstone was laid by Bishop Paul B. Kern, assisted by Bishop Collins Denney, both of whom had in other years worshiped in the old church.

The house of worship was opened on Sunday morning, March 10, 1940. The dream had come true. Through the years the congregation of West End had continued to grow. Its people rejoiced in the opportunities which its completed plant opened for them.

In June of 1944 the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference elected Dr. Harrell to the episcopacy of The Methodist Church, in which capacity he is now rendering devoted service. In the same year, Dr. James W. Henley came to the pastorate of West End Church from Centenary Methodist Church, Chattanooga. The building was dedicated in 1948. Since that time West End has seen its Sunday school develop marvelously and its church membership is now 2,810.

The following compose the official board for 1955-56: William Lane Abernathy, Howard Adkins, Jr., Dr. A. Edwin Anderson, J. Holmes Anderson, Dr. W. B. Anderson, Ferris C. Bailey, James Barbour, Marvin K. Barry, John W. Barton, Jr., Bruce M. Bayer, A. B. Benedict, Jr., W. E. Bethshares, Charles G. Blackars, C. A. Bowen, Jr., R. C. Braden, W. Irby Bright, Jr., Julius O. Bush, Robert L. Campbell, DeWitt Carter, Dr. William R. Cate, Albert Cavert, Tillman Cavert, Robert Chadwell, Irvine G. Chase, Frank I. Cherry, John Clay, Everett M. Clayton, Thomas M. Coleman, Maxie C. Collier, Ovid Collins, Jr., Charles W. Cook, Rufus Cottrell, Jr., H. A. Cragon, Jr., C. A. Craig, C. A. Craig II, Edwin W. Craig, Elbert S. Craig, W. Ezell Craig, Robert W. Crichlow, Lee Davis, Matt H. Dobson, Jr., Jo. W. Durrett, W. C. Edwards, W. I. Edwards, T. Howard Estes, Thomas W. Estes, Dr. Robert M. Foote, Ben S. Gambill, Shelley H. Garner, A. L. P. Green, Fred Hadley, Gus Halliburton, Robert D. Herbert, Jr., Thomas L. Herbert IV, Ross Hopkins, Granbery Jackson, Jr., Dr. D. Jay Johns, Dr. B. H. Johnson, M. J. Kingins, G. C. Lynch, Charles R. Majors, Robert C. Matthews, Jr., Dr. G. S. McClellan, Stephen H. McGaw, Morton M. McMurray, M. Hoover Moore, Dr. Hugh J. Morgan, Rogers Morrison, Newton Myers, Jr., Lewis M. Mullens, A. G. Ottenville, Dr. James C. Overall, B. Lanier Peebles, J. Murray Perry, Raymond Perry, Will T. Perry, James B. Pert, Lovick Pierce, William R. Pounder, Tom H. Proctor, Arthur D. Reed, James H. Reed, Jr., James H. Reed III, Edwin R. Rice, C. Dorris Rippy, Dr. Felix C. Robb, A. Herbert Rogers, Fred Russell, Walter L. Seaman, Thurman Sensing, Dr. Harrison Shull, Alden H. Smith, Jewell R. Smith, Robert R. Sneed, Alec B. Stevenson, W. H. Swiggart, Alex W. Taylor, Julian J. Thomas, Roy Thompson, William J. Turbeville, J. Webster Turner, Herman Vantrease, Wilson A. Ward, Charles W. Waterfield, William C. Weaver, Jr., Fred R. Webber, Jr., B. A. Whitmore, Al P. Whitson, A. L. Williams, Cohen T. Williams, B. F. Wilson III, Ben E. Woodard.

Honorary Stewards: S. H. H. Howard, Louis Huggins, Paul Stumb, W. A. Willis.

JAMES W. HENLEY, *Pastor*

SHADY GROVE

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The Shady Grove Church was organized in the early sixties of the eighteenth century. It had its beginning in an old-fashioned brush arbor. In 1869 the Rev. Joe Myers built a 32x54 church on a two-acre piece of ground that was given by Mr. William Riley. The

stewards were T. P. Riley, Sr., Brad Faulking, Jim Riddles and William Riley. Trustee, J. M. Riley.

In 1936 the church was completely destroyed by a tornado. The members and friends salvaged what was usable of the destroyed building and added to and built in the same year a church 32x50 which is a very nice building. In the years between 1952 and 1954 the small faithful membership has redecorated the church inside and out by painting, papering and hardwood floor. This is our Shady Grove Church on the Huntland Charge.

The total membership is fifty; Sunday school enrollment, thirty; average attendance, twenty.

D. R. POOLE, *Pastor*

CROSS BRIDGES

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

Cross Bridges Methodist Church is located five miles east of Hampshire in Maury County. It began as a class which was organized about 1870—eighty-five years ago. During the aftermath of the Civil War living conditions in the South were desperate and Middle Tennessee possibly suffered as much as any other section. For this reason Methodist churches did the best possible and were often forced to use schoolhouses and private homes for places of worship. Cross Bridges was in this situation and conducted its services in a schoolhouse until 1880 when a frame church building was erected at a cost of \$2,000. Rev. Sterling M. Cherry, a member of the Tennessee Conference, delivered the first sermon in this building. It was destroyed by fire October 27, 1906. The present brick structure was completed in 1907. Dr. J. B. Erwin was the first pastor to occupy the new church building.

J. L. NUTT, *Pastor*

HILLSBORO

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

We have not found the record showing the year the Methodist Church had its beginning in Hillsboro. To say that the Church had its beginning soon after the close of the War Between the States would not be far wrong. An old log house was used for church and school purposes for many years and was in use when Rev. W. H. Gilbert was appointed to the Hillsboro Circuit in 1883. The log house was used by all denominations. In 1888, during the pastorate of Rev. S. J. Shasteen, the Methodists erected their first building. During the pastorate of Rev. A. L. Hodge, Evangelist W. A. Swift con-

ducted the most successful revival meeting ever held in the history of the church.

The present beautiful modern church building was begun during the pastorate of Rev. J. E. Trotter. The building committee was composed of Sam Brashear, G. T. Davis, and W. M. Lassater. It was finished during the pastorate of Rev. P. A. Kirby. In fact it was really constructed during his pastorate and he did much of the work with his own hands. It is a brick building, very worshipful sanctuary, four large Sunday school rooms, pastor's study, full-size basement. New pews were installed September 15, 1955, at a cost of \$3,800. Total cost of the plant is approximately \$33,800. The church has a membership of 208.

JAMES E. EDDINGS, *Pastor*

CEDAR GROVE

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Years ago land was given by Mr. Eddy Osteen on which was built the Cedar Grove Church, known to this community as the "Old Church." Mr. Osteen was ordained a Deacon in 1835 by Bishop McKendree. Mrs. George B. Landis, of Route 2, Shelbyville, Tennessee, has the original copy of the certificate and signature of the Bishop.

In 1910 the "Old Church" was torn away and the present building was erected. In the year 1939 this church, which was the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was united with the Methodist Protestant Church in this community. The Methodist Protestant Church was torn away and the Sunday school rooms we now use were built from the lumber taken from this church.

We now have a church of which we are very proud. We were very proud when Miss Marilyn Haskill, field worker from Scarritt College, after working with us for a quarter, said that Cedar Grove, in her estimation, was the perfect rural church.

MRS. IRA TAYLOR, *Historian*

BETHANY

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The Bethany Methodist Church was organized sometime prior to 1873. In 1928 Rev. J. P. Funk, a great Confederate soldier who wore his gray uniform long after the surrender, visited in the community of Bethany Church in 1928. In this visit he stated to a friend that he preached the first sermon in the new Bethany Church fifty-five years

ago. That would place the erection of the building in the year 1873. We estimate the organization of the church about 1870. The building was erected by Mr. Cull Spears, who was the father of Mr. John Spears, the present efficient superintendent of the Sunday school. The church belongs to the Manchester Circuit which has five appointments—Blanton's Chapel, Fredonia, Goose Pond, Riverside and Bethany. There are sixty-nine members. Brother O. H. Lane, a retired member of the Tennessee Conference, is our pastor in his first year.

A FRIEND, *Historian*

FOREST GROVE

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

Forest Grove Methodist Church is located in Davidson County four miles north of Joelton, Tennessee, on the Springfield highway. It is one of the four churches on the Joelton Circuit. Having been built around the year 1870, it is one of the old landmarks in the county. Exact dates are hard to obtain as no records were kept.

Mrs. Lucy Hobbs gave one acre of land for a church site and one more for a cemetery. At the time there was a one-room log building on the cemetery plot that was used for a school and a church when a preacher could be obtained.

About the year 1870 a movement was started to build a church. Jim Cooper, Sr., was appointed architect and builder. Cage Wilkinson, Sr., Gil Reasoner, and Andrew Drake were liberal donators of both their time and money in the project. Few families could be termed as having even comfortable means of living, but every man, woman, and child were willing workers in the service of the Lord.

Work was started in the wooded area, the timber was cut and the logs processed for the new church. Many denied the necessities of life to their families to build this place of worship. The work was done well, for the building stands today as nearly like the original as is possible. Sunday school rooms have been added and the interior has been remodeled.

Forest Grove has had a checkered career. In 1883 Conference failed to send a preacher as the people had failed to support the church. The only services held that year were when a circuit rider would stop. James D. Crawford, who was loved by all, was asked to hold a revival. Reports have it that the church was filled on one of the preaching nights. During this revival of religion one night the building was well filled and at the conclusion of the sermon upon invitation forty came forward, accepted Christ and united with the church. This was a turning point in the life of the church. At the next Annual Conference the church was restored to the circuit.

Today, the church has a membership of 100 with over seventy-five enrolled in the Sunday school. Its future is bright.

DOYLE MASTERS, *Pastor*

P.S.: The editor of this history delivered his first sermon in this church November 20, 1904. He was a student in the Theological Department of Vanderbilt University. His text was Exodus 32:26—"Who is on the Lord's side?" Rev. R. M. Holland of Arkansas, also a student in Vanderbilt, was the pastor.

PLEASANT GROVE

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

In the year 1830 religious services were held at Alford's Camp Ground and Murry's Chapel. Later Alford's and Murry's consolidated. It was then known as the Pleasant Grove Society. In the year 1870 the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church was organized, and a building was erected on land deeded to the trustees of the Methodist Church by Hollis Wright. The first pastor of the Pleasant Grove Church was the Rev. Robert P. Gray. The Presiding Elder was Rev. John F. Hughes.

This church is located on the old central pike sixteen miles east of Nashville.

JOHN B. MOOREHEAD, *Pastor*

TAFT

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Soon after the close of the War Between the States, a camp ground was established about 1866 a mile and a half northeast of the present location of Taft, Tennessee. It was a typical camp ground with several log cabins erected for camping purposes for summer and fall revival meetings. This camp ground passed away in the 1870's with other similar revival centers in Middle Tennessee. In place of the camp ground, a Methodist church was organized on the camp ground site and it was named "Shiloh." The building was not completed until 1880, primarily on account of the hard economic conditions that existed during the reconstruction period.

The original name of the village of Taft was Rowell. The chief enterprise in the community, in addition to farming, was a post office with a star route, a shop and a store. In 1889 a railroad which was called "Middle Tennessee and Alabama" ran through Rowell connecting Cap Shaw in Madison County, Alabama, and Fayetteville, Tennessee, a distance of about forty miles. Mr. David Taft, who was a prominent citizen and landowner, gave the land in Rowell upon which the railroad depot was erected. In appreciation for this

gift, the officials of the new railroad had the name changed from Rowell to Taft. Consequently, the government soon thereafter changed the name of the post office to Taft.

With the growth of Taft as a business center, the officials and members of Shiloah Methodist Church decided to move to the growing village. Therefore, in 1910, the building was moved to a building lot donated by Oliver Taft, son of David Taft. It was a slow process, for the building was moved on skids with horse power. The newly located church gradually became Taft Methodist Church.

The following compose the official board for 1955: *Trustees*—Herman Mitchell, Mrs. John Jones. *Stewards*—Herman Philpot, D. M. Sanders, Mrs. Herman Mitchell, J. M. Robertson. *Parsonage trustee*—Claud Robertson. *Church lay leader*—D. M. Sanders. *Charge treasurer*—Luther Stephens. *Sunday school superintendent*—Edd Davidson. *President of the Woman's Society of Christian Service*—Mrs. Amy Elmore. *Secretary and treasurer*—Mrs. Edd Davidson. *President of the Methodist Youth Fellowship*—Elaine Holman.

The church has a membership of 160; Sunday school enrollment, ninety.

EDD DAVIDSON, *Historian*

LUTON'S CHAPEL

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

The first Luton's Chapel Methodist Church, a one-room building, was erected at the foot of the hill on Baker's Station Road, sometime near the year 1870. Its first member was William King Luton, for whom the church was named.

In later years the congregation outgrew the first building and a new church was built at the present site, near the present Highway 41. This second building, a one-room structure, was dedicated in 1897. Three Sunday school rooms were added at a later date. Following the construction of this church, land was purchased for a cemetery, and there one of the church's beloved pastors, the Reverend J. T. Cotton, and his wife lie buried.

In 1935 the second building was destroyed by fire and a more modern church with five Sunday school rooms was erected. This building was dedicated in 1938 by Bishop H. M. DuBose. The Reverend J. T. Thomas was pastor at that time. Since being dedicated a recreational building and three Sunday school rooms have been added. Rev. Roy West is pastor.

ALLAN COGGINS, *Historian*

FOUNTAIN GROVE

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Fountain Grove Methodist Church is located five miles southwest of Morrison, Tennessee. The church was organized after the Civil War and a log house was built on an old camp meeting site. Later a frame house was erected, and in 1920 the present building was constructed. This has recently been remodeled and gas heat added.

ROBERT THORNTON, JR., *Pastor*

MT. OLIVET (Near Wartrace)

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The Mount Olivet Methodist Episcopal Church had its beginning in an old building across the road from where the church now stands. The old church was built in 1870.

The new church was built in 1902. The first service was held the first Sunday in May, 1902. The Rev. W. B. Ripitoe was the first pastor of the new church.

Mt. Olivet is a growing church. In the past year there have been twenty additions to the church, making a membership of fifty.

In the year of 1954 there was a W.S.C.S. organized and a M.Y.F. Also the first vacation church school was held with about thirty enrolled. The church now has a very strong church school with Lannie Goodley as church school superintendent. The church is on the Wartrace and Normandy Charge. The Rev. Mitchell Sawyer is pastor.

JIM MORTON, *Historian*

CENTER HILL

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

By a desire to promote the religious interest and spiritual well-being of the community in which he lived, John B. Norris gave a tract of land in the Twelfth Civil District of Smith County, Tennessee, to trustees M. G. Cutrell, Jonathan Lamb, John S. Cutrell, R. D. Moore and James M. Link, in trust, that they might build a place of worship for the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The land was deeded on the fifteenth of February, 1870.

The house of worship was then built, and on the third Sunday in May, 1870, the church was dedicated. The church was dedicated by Dr. D. C. Kelley, and the dedication sermon was preached from the thirteenth chapter of Saint Matthew. The membership was organized

by Rev. N. B. S. Owing on the sixteenth day of June, 1870, at which time there were eighty-two members.

In 1904 the membership decided to tear down the old church building and build a new building on the same spot of ground.

Since its beginning in 1870 the Center Hill Church has been served by forty-six different pastors and at the present time the church has thirty-six members.

HENRY DAVIS, *Pastor*

McDONALD CHAPEL

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The church was organized soon after the close of the Civil War. An old log school house located at Rock Ridge was used for church purposes. It was a twenty foot square building with an eight foot fireplace. Split logs were used for seats. In 1898, the old log house was replaced by a large building which was destroyed by fire in 1924. November 20, 1908, Porter and Margaret McDonald deeded two acres of land at Rocky Ridge to the Methodist Church in the name of the following trustees: W. G. Smith, G. W. Reeses, F. K. Reeses, and G. W. Beaty. While the building was begun immediately it was not finished until 1912. The District Conference for that year was held in the new church. The church has been known as "McDonald Chapel" since the District Conference. The church is in a prosperous condition and has 147 members.

J. H. BROWN, *Pastor*

LIVINGSTON

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Methodist Church of Livingston was organized in 1870, being promoted by W. P. Chapin who had moved here from Spring Creek, bringing his membership from the Old Paran Church with him. In the beginning the Methodist congregation worshiped in the old Cumberland Presbyterian Church. They bought one-half interest in this property in 1885 but fire swept away their investment in 1888.

A lot was purchased in 1889 by the Methodist congregation and in 1891 Bishop Charles B. Galloway dedicated the new church building. In 1913, during the pastorate of Reverend John O. Ensor, the church was enlarged, Sunday school rooms were added and the building was brick veneered.

This church had a small beginning of about 25 members. It has never had a rapid increase in membership but has had a continuous growth, and at present the membership is near 600.

The present building has served the church for sixty-four years but has now become inadequate to meet the needs for a growing congregation. The church in December of 1954 voted to erect a new building at a new location. We have plans for a beautifully designed colonial church that will accommodate 360 persons. Construction is expected to begin in June of 1955. ROBERT H. SPAIN, *Pastor*

ASPEN HILL

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The Aspen Hill community was settled in 1809 by John Barnett, John Butler, Rev. Aaron Brown, Thomas Reed, Joseph Moore, Daniel Cox, James Kimbrough, Joseph and Elijah Anderson. The people were a thrifty moral class interested in religion and good citizenship. "I Jerome P. Butler for in consideration of the love I bear for the cause of Christ and from earnest desire to promote his heritage on this earth, do give and grant—this lot to be used to worship God on"—thus the Aspen Hill Methodist Episcopal Church, South, began June, 1870. The first church was located on this lot between the L & N Railroad and the public road then known as Butler's Ford road. The trustees were Jerome P. Butler, Joshua Browning and John Bowland. The Richland Circuit was composed of Aspen Hill, Liberty, Rehoboth and Midbridge, a church at Conway and the parsonage was there until 1885 when the Midbridge church closed and a parsonage built at Aspen Hill. J. L. Kellum was pastor at this time. Because of interference from train noises, the lot was sold to A. E. Marks and became a part of the lot owned by Urban Smith. The trustees—Jerome P. Butler, Frank Ross, and W. A. Butler—bought the lot where the church now stands from Mrs. Jennie Sims Marks. The first services were held in the new church in 1894. The church had a Belfry in which hung the bell used to call the people to worship. The first week of August 1909 the church was struck by lightning during a thunderstorm. Men from the train stopped at the time on the sidetrack, helped the people but all they could save were seats, chancel rails, pulpit stand and chairs and communion table that are used in the present church. That summer the revival was held in a tent on the church grounds. Rev. Allen Miller who moved here that fall was a great inspiration to those building the church. Church services were held in the school house and the Odd Fellows Hall until the church was completed in 1910. The trustees were A. J. Powell, F. L. Lester and W. A. Butler. The Aspen Hill Church has been on several charges since then—Bethesda, Cedar Grove, Prospect and now the Trinity Charge. The parsonage was sold to Herbert

Neal in 1938. The present membership is small and under the guidance of Rev. J. E. Trotter. The officers are Ed T. Petty, Sr., Sunday school Superintendent; Mrs. Ed T. Petty, Jr., Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs. M. E. Howard, Mrs. Ed T. Petty, Jr., Mrs. G. M. Massey, and C. O. Dickey, teachers. The church officers are C. O. Dickey, Treasurer, Mrs. M. E. Howard, Secretary; Ed T. Petty, Sr., H. Clay Jones and Spencer Fogg Church, trustees; Ed T. Petty, Jr., John Kerr, and Urban Smith, stewards.

Revs. Dean and John Stroud were members of this church while their father was pastor here. The late Rev. Raymond Browning was reared here and was a member of this church.

MRS. URBAN SMITH, *Historian*

EUREKA

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The Eureka Methodist Church is one of the eight churches on the Savannah Circuit. It is located about one mile south of Savannah on the Pickwick road. The word means in Greek "I have found." True to its meaning hundreds of lost people have found the Lord since its organization about 1870. We have not been able to locate the exact year the church was organized, but in the light of many factors it was around 1870. The record shows that Mrs. Cinthia Talley was the first superintendent of the Sunday school. One of her daughters, Mrs. Tes Alexander who is eighty-two years old, is the oldest member. Mr. John Tackett who died a few years ago at the age of 89 assisted in building the first church. It was called "Tackett's Chapel;" it was destroyed by a storm many years ago. The second church building was erected on the old location and the name was changed to "Eureka."

The church has a membership of seventy-eight, and the Sunday school enrollment of sixty. It also has a very interesting M.Y.F. The congregation is enthused with new life and the future of the church was never more hopeful.

JAMES T. JOHNSON, *Pastor*

BLANCHE

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Blanche Methodist Church is located on a beautiful knoll in the village of Blanche, Lincoln County, Tennessee, near highway 110, many years called the Fort Hampton Road; 18 miles southwest of Fayetteville.

The village and the church were named Pleasant Plains. The record in the County Register's office, in Fayetteville, Tennessee, is as follows:

At Pleasant Plains, Tennessee, February 15, 1871, John C. Biles deeded two acres of land, for the sum of fifty dollars, for the purpose of a church for the benefit of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Reformed Presbyterian Church. Book G—page 207. (Blanche church is located on this same tract of land.)

In 1874, the Pleasant Plains village was named Blanche, the name of a daughter of the John Rawls, an official member of the Methodist church and a merchant, of Blanche village. Nebo, Old Shiloh and Smith's Chapel were the three churches added to the Blanche Charge. The church was named Blanche in 1889.

In 1885, the Methodist congregation at Nebo sold their interest in the Nebo church to the Baptist. Most of the Methodist members were transferred to Pleasant Plains church, which had a membership of 251 at that time. The Blanche charge remained the same until years later when Coldwater, Taft, Molino, and Camargo churches were added.

In 1910 the Reformed Presbyterian church sold its interest to the Methodist church. Services were held in the original building of 1871, until 1947. Under the leadership of the pastor, Rev. E. G. Godwin, plans were made to construct a new church building. Plans were completed and the building was erected under the leadership of Rev. R. E. Stevenson. The cornerstone was laid Nov. 20, 1949. The first service was held in the new building June 18, 1950, conducted by the Rev. A. J. Davis. The church was dedicated June 15, 1952. The service was conducted by the Rev. E. C. Shelton, District Superintendent of Columbia District, and the pastor, Rev. R. E. Stevenson.

In 1952 Blanche and Coldwater churches were taken from the other churches of the charge and made a two point circuit. Rev. A. R. Hogan was appointed pastor by the Annual Conference in 1953. New pews and pulpit furniture were bought and installed in 1953.

"MISS" PAT SMITH, *Historian*

PLEASANT GROVE

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The Pleasant Grove Methodist Church is located ten miles northwest from Winchester, Tennessee, off of the Old Tullahoma-Winchester Highway, in the fifteenth Civil District of Franklin County.

James R. Graham deeded on March 20, 1871, one acre of ground to Pinkney Gilbert, A. Ray, John A. Gilbert, Asberry Tarply and

Gaston Burt, as trustees of the Methodist E. Church, South. A church was built on this ground and served this community until May, 1954. In the early years school was taught in this building and served both as a church and a school building.

According to the records available the church was reorganized in 1912 by Rev. J. G. Summers, and continued active until 1919. There is no activity reported in the church records from 1919 until 1934. In September, 1934, Rev. R. D. Davis became the pastor and worked diligently to create an active church again in this neighborhood. The records indicate that he had a successful pastorate. Rev. Jack Staggs succeeded Rev. Davis. Rev. Sam H. Parks became the pastor in 1939; during his years as pastor the church building was completely remodeled inside and out, with the help of Fate Cleek and other neighbors. From this period the church has grown until at the present time we have an active membership. In 1952, construction was begun on a 32x60 brick veneer building with full-size basement and gas heat. The basement has four Sunday school rooms and auditorium. We began having services in the new church in May, 1954.

Rev. Lee Medley became our pastor in 1948 and we began to have two preaching services a month, which has been continued.

This church helped buy the electrical equipment during 1953 for the parsonage located at Awalt.

Our present pastor is Rev. Leslie Jacobs. The Sunday school superintendents are Harold Burton and Joe Hanger. The stewards are Clyde Caldwell, Robert Cleek and S. J. Shasteen. The trustees are Clyde Caldwell, Earl Withers and Mrs. Pat Gallagher. Lay leader is Willie Abbott. Sunday school teachers are Mrs. S. J. Shasteen, Mrs. Clyde Caldwell, Mrs. Pat Gallagher, Mrs. Clarence Caldwell and Mrs. Charles Taylor.

MRS. PAT GALLAGHER, *Historian*

OLIVET

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Olivet Methodist Church was organized in 1871 with eighteen charter members. The present house of worship was erected the same year, promoted and financed by Col. David T. Reynolds, a charter member. The church stands seven miles north of Pulaski, on the east side of Highway 31. Reynolds and Albert Buford, who later united with the church, gave the land making a joint deed.

Dr. Alexander L. P. Green dedicated the building, and J. B. Anderson was the first pastor of the church. Olivet and Pleasant Valley Churches constituted Pleasant Valley Station from 1871 to 1879. Then, Olivet became a full-time appointment, and W. A.

Turner, who had served Pleasant Valley Station one year, was assigned pastor of Olivet Station for one year.

Reynolds gave the land for the Olivet Parsonage and had the building erected at his own expense in 1875. He deeded the parsonage to the M. E. Church, South, for use and benefit of Olivet Station.

The first District Conference session at Olivet was held during the pastorate of R. G. Irvine, 1873-76, with Bishop E. M. Marvin, delivering the sermon. Irvine was stricken with total blindness while serving the church. New interest was created in the Sunday school in 1877-78 when the pastor, J. T. Duncan, introduced a new practice—winter sessions, November 1-March 31—and summer sessions, April 1-October 31, resulting in year-around improvement in attendance.

One member of Olivet Church, Dean Stroud, now pastor of Hobson Church, Nashville, was licensed to preach in 1922 while his father, the late W. A. Stroud, served as pastor. J. T. Blackwood, ninety-seven, oldest member of the Tennessee Conference, served Olivet Church in 1896-97. Many prominent ministers' names appear on the roll of its former pastors.

Olivet Church has endured wars, depressions, drouths and other hindrances, but still marches on. To make way for Highway 31, forty feet of land was taken from her frontage in 1927, and sixty feet more in 1951, for a four-lane highway. The building was lifted up and set back several feet over a full-sized basement. The church acquired title to the abandoned Olivet school building and land recently, which will be developed into a church and community center.

The seventy-nine-year-old parsonage was modernized during the pastorate of A. R. Hogan, 1949-52; a bathroom added and electrical appliances installed in the kitchen. Now the parsonage is a modern and comfortable home for the pastor and his family.

The church basement has been finished into a fellowship hall, kitchen and classrooms; a butane furnace installed as central heating system and other improvements made during the past two years. Other definite improvements are underway, and the eighty-three-year-old frame structure is one of the most complete rural churches in the area. Its membership at present is 103 and W. J. Fesmire is serving his third year as pastor of the church.

MRS. F. C. JUSTICE, *Historian*

Approved by the congregation.

ASBURY

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Asbury Methodist Church is located in Stewart County on the head of Leatherwood Creek. The building lot was donated by the

Lagrange Iron Co., August 22, 1871. The trustees were J. W. Parker, J. P. Bell, J. A. McGee, J. A. Daniel, and Joshua Cole. The first and second church buildings were erected of logs. The present building, which is the third, stands upon the original site. It is one of five churches on the Standing Rock Circuit. While the church has served the community for eighty-four years through droughts, wars, and has endured many ups and downs it has been and is faithful to its committed trust. The membership today is only forty-eight, with only thirty-three enrolled in the Sunday school. The congregation has in a measure the Asburian spirit.

MRS. LYDA HARRIS, *Historian*

LINDEN

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

Beginning about 1871, the Methodist Church and the Christian Church in Linden worshiped together until 1892 when the frame church building was destroyed by fire. Immediately following the fire, the Methodists began to make plans for their own building upon a lot purchased in 1881. The foundation was laid in 1893, the building was erected and dedicated in June 1897 at a session of the Savannah District Conference. Rev. G. W. Taylor was the pastor and Rev. J. W. Hensley was the presiding elder.

The Linden Methodist Church was made a station in 1950. The last year Linden was a circuit appointment the pastor's salary was \$1,700. This year as a station (1955) the salary of the pastor is \$3,400. In 1952, the church plant underwent extensive repairs and alterations. An educational unit, dining hall and recreational center were added. A new parsonage was part of the building program all of which cost \$30,000.

The church has an active Woman's Society of Christian Service of twenty members. Mrs. Esther Graham is president of the society. There are 263 full church members and 170 enrolled in the Church school. The future of Linden Methodist Church was never more hopeful, never better organized, financed, and with a greater spirit to go forward.

WALTER J. BUNN, *Pastor*

MONROE STREET

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Monroe Street Methodist Church has eighty-four years of history; the early history of Monroe Street had its origin in a small house of

worship on Sixth Avenue, North, erected 1871 upon a lot which was a gift from Dr. Sawrie.

This was originally known as Sawrie's Chapel and in later years was spoken of as "North High Methodist Church." There were forty charter members but the membership increased to eighty before the first Quarterly Conference, which was held in 1872. Rev. John Rains was the first pastor; others were J. J. Ransom and Dr. J. O. Orman.

The present building was erected in 1906, on the corner of Monroe Street and Seventh Avenue, North, and the name changed to "Monroe Street Methodist Church." The Rev. J. E. Woodward, a member of the Tennessee Conference, was the architect. The stained-glass windows portraying scenes during the life of Christ are some of the most beautiful in the city. Rev. E. M. Harrell was the first pastor; the following have served through the years: W. J. Stewart, W. V. Jarrett, H. T. Allen, P. D. Freeman, W. M. Lantrip, John R. Stewart, L. B. Cravens, J. E. Woodward, J. B. Spurlock, H. P. Williams, A. E. Clement, M. K. Harwell, R. B. Rawls, O. E. Hall, and Boyd S. Fielder, who is now in his thirteenth year as pastor. Rev. G. E. Holley, has taught Bible for fourteen years and Rev. J. W. Graham is serving this year as assistant pastor.

The official board: E. F. Smithson, Sr., Chairman; Warren Link, Vice-Chairman; George Talley, Church Treasurer; L. P. Stark, Associate Church Treasurer; John Shull, G. A. Goldtrap, Richard Rust, W. M. Wakeford, C. A. Parsons, L. F. Hoover, H. C. Coleman, Sr., Herman Floyd, Herschel L. Greer, Ray Harrington, Clifton Floyd, Jr., J. W. Caudle, Hilary Harper, John Homer Fite, Herschel Harris, Ray McKennon, Harden McKennon, Harold Herron, Bill Dunlap, J. F. Herron, B. C. Floyd, J. E. Holley, E. F. Smithson, Jr., Leon Herron, Jack Davidson, John Buchli, Marshall Trauernicht.

Church school superintendent, Hilary M. Harper; Associate church school superintendent, Mrs. Warren Link; Communion steward, Mrs. John W. Caudle; President of Woman's Society of Christian Service, Mrs. C. P. Martin; and Organist, Mrs. A. M. Whitworth.

BOYD FIELDER, *Pastor*

TAYLOR'S CHAPEL

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Methodist Church of Taylor's Chapel was organized in 1872 by Mr. Leeroy Taylor, father of Mr. M. L. Taylor.

The Community has had three church houses. The first one was lost by fire; the second house was organized and built in the year

of 1872. It was located where the present church now stands, and consisted of approximately seven members, the immediate family of Mr. Leeroy Taylor. The third church was built in the year of 1910.

When dedicated, the church belonged to the Holston Conference. The actual date of dedication is not known.

The church has never been wealthy, but always been free of debt and has never been without a pastor. No ministers have been sent out from the church, and the church has had no division between the members.

G. C. SELF, *Pastor*

ALEX GREEN

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

According to old minutes of Alex Green, early in 1872, at Temperance Hall (site of the present parsonage), there was a meeting of the members of two old churches of the White's Creek Valley—Ebenezer, on Dry Fork, and Ewings Chapel, on Ewings Creek. The purpose of this meeting was to select a site and plan a new church conveniently situated where all could worship together. Both churches were built in pioneer days when this section was in the Cumberland District on the "Western Waters."

Records in the Davidson County Courthouse show that land "on the waters of White's Creek" was surveyed and granted to Fedrick Stump, 1787, for his services in the Continental line. Ebenezer was built on the Stump land.

The traveling preachers followed the surveyors into this hazardous, Indian-infested country, where they risked their lives to preach the Gospel.

In 1834, "White's Creek Circuit," of the "Cumberland District" appears the first time in The Methodist Church Minutes. Dr. A. L. P. Green was presiding elder; Rev. Barton Brown was the preacher.

At the time of the meeting in 1872, White's Creek Circuit was in the Nashville District. Rev. John Hanner was the presiding elder; Rev. Thomas Woodward was the preacher (189 members on the circuit).

Rev. Woodward presided over the meeting. Finally, the lot next to Temperance Hall on the White's Creek Pike was selected. Messrs. W. D. Robinson, Grundy Earthman, John A. Vaughan, Jacob Mayo, and W. S. Whiteman, Jr., were appointed to confer with the owner, Mr. Tim Manlove, and report terms on which the land could be bought.

This committee reported that the lot, 1 "acre" front and running

back 2 "acres," could be bought for \$200, the owner donating \$25, and doing work to the amount of \$75. The said committee, with the addition of Mr. Wellington Hyde and Mr. W. A. Vaughan, were appointed to solicit subscriptions.

Messrs. H. C. Gardner, Jacob Mayo, Henry Johnson, Robinson, Vaughan, and Whiteman were appointed to the planning and building committee.

The following ladies were a special committee to solicit subscriptions: Madams W. D. Robinson, W. B. Ewing, H. C. Gardner, John Bysor, William Smith, W. S. Whiteman, Jr., Misses Lucy Manlove, Katherine Mayo, Lida Matthews, Maggie Wilkinson, Alice Baldrige, Sue Gill, Ella Marshall, Martha Jane Cato, Helen Tavel, and Mattie Carney. This enthusiastic group soon reported \$1,259 raised. Dr. Green donated two acres opposite his residence, Greenland, to be disposed of for the benefit of the new church. The trustees of Ewings Chapel donated that church property for the new church, and suggested it could be sold to the school commissioners for about \$250, bringing the contributions up to \$1,659.

On August 2, 1872, a meeting was called. The special business was to transfer the building site to the trustees—Messrs. W. B. Ewing, Thomas Sanders, E. P. Graves, Redman Maddox, and Esquire Moorman.

The building committee was requested to plan a suitable building, costing not less than \$2,547, in order that the building could begin as soon as possible. And, what a plan they submitted! All material must be selected, and first class. The interior would be finished to bring out the natural beauty of the wood; side walls, high ceilings, and yellow poplar floors would harmonize in finish. The windows would be etched glass with stained-glass borders.

It was decided to name the church "Alex Green," for the grand old man of Methodism, Dr. A. L. P. Green.

As the building developed, the windows called for became memorial windows. Families and friends paid for them and dedicated them in loving memory to: Dr. A. L. P. Green, James Yarbrough, Wm. B. Ewing, Dr. W. W. Searcy, John Bysor, and Mrs. Joseph Johnson, the former Miss Kate Garrett.

Mr. Horace Ross lettered by hand the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed on two large scrolls. These still hang in the church. Mr. Ross, a business man and also a trained musician, shared his talent freely. He trained the congregation to sing as a choir. After his death, Mrs. Ross, his wife, who taught the children of the Sunday school for many years, planned, had built, and furnished at her own expense a beautiful annex. It was called the "Infant Room," but it was more like a little church for children.

Capt. Frank Green, son of Dr. A. L. P. Green, was a consecrated, dynamic leader, first superintendent of the Sunday school, serving for thirty years. It would be impossible to name all the grand people, ministers and laymen, who helped to make Alex Green what it is, but we should mention two who served as Sunday school superintendents so faithfully for long terms—Mr. N. B. Malone and Mr. Fred Graves.

A fine, sweet-toned, electric organ has recently been bought. A modern kitchen and dining room that can be divided and used for classes has been added. Our fine young Sunday school superintendent, Isham Harris, a veteran of World War II, went into the ministry in 1955.

Like a golden thread in a tapestry, Methodism is interwoven with other historical events of the history of Middle Tennessee. Alex Green, a direct outcome of the two old churches of pioneer days, is a development and continuous part of the pattern from the beginning until now.

MARY E. FONTAINE,

COURTENAY FONTAINE, *Historians*

WARTRACE

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The first recorded deed to the Wartrace Methodist Church in Bedford County, was dated March 25, 1872, entitled "S. R. Hailey to M. T. Griswood and others." Trustees were M. T. Griswood, T. W. Tarpley, Thomas Hart, N. C. Harris and D. B. Shriver. This first church was a wooden structure, replaced shortly by the present brick church. Two large Sunday school rooms with basement were built in 1925 under the pastorate of J. J. Mabry. In October of 1954, the Allen Educational Annex, realization of the dream of Mr. W. J. Allen was added, comprising four new church school rooms and full sized basement with all modern conveniences.

From this church have gone out the Revs. Charles, Berthel and Carl Parker, sons of the Rev. Silas Parker, for many years a member here.

August of 1954 closed one of the greatest Conference years this church has ever had, with twenty-two additions. The membership is now around two hundred. The Rev. Mitchell Sawyer is now the pastor.

MRS. M. L. CONNELL

HENDERSONVILLE

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

The need for a meeting place for the Methodist people was apparent following the War Between the States. Life-long residents

of Hendersonville, members of The Methodist Church, relate incidents of religious services held in the homes as told them by their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.

The Christians of all faiths had few churches in those years in which to assemble for the purpose of worshipping God. It was a common practice for two or more communions to worship together or alternate in the use of one church.

The first records found indicating a Methodist church was in existence was in the year 1872. The records show Rev. B. F. Ferrell served as pastor of a small congregation during that year. The first members uniting with this church were: Charles D. Dunn, Etta Ellis, Jane Patton, Clara Callender, Edward C. Fite, Susie C. Fite, Washie Pierce Mann, Miss Sallie Dunn, Miss Mary Dunn.

These names appear as members received by Rev. B. F. Ferrell and Rev. W. G. Dorris and Rev. H. B. Blue from 1872 to 1885.

The first Methodist Church meeting house was erected in Hendersonville in the year 1884. Mrs. Wesley Savely recalls with fond remembrances watching with her playmates the construction of a frame meeting house on the site where the present church now stands. Mrs. Snavey recalled she was a student in the grammar school the year the church was built. She is of the opinion a small frame house was replaced by the new structure. She recounted the Methodists met every other Sunday in the Presbyterian Church.

The story floats around Hendersonville concerning the fire hazard in the church belfry caused by birds building their nests and leaving them there from year to year. During a thunder storm in 1918 a bolt of lightning ignited the abandoned nests in the belfry and the church structure burned. Two years later, November 29, 1920, the present church was dedicated. Rev. G. W. Nackles was the Pastor.

The names of the building committee are on the cornerstone as follows: G. W. Nackles, pastor; W. L. Franklin, R. M. Pierce, F. E. Mann.

The present church is a beautiful edifice consisting of a sanctuary and ample church school rooms. Hendersonville is located on the proposed and partially completed Hendersonville fresh water lake. This church will grow with the fast expanding community to meet the needs of a happy people in Hendersonville. Rev. Pickens Johnson is our pastor.

LEWIS S. POPE, *Chairman*
G. G. DAVIDSON
W. C. BRITTAIN
MRS. W. A. WARNER
Committee

SMYRNA

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The first Methodist Church at Smyrna (Rutherford County, Tenn.) was completed in 1872. It was a two-story brick house, forty by sixty feet, located on Madison Street, the same location of the present church. The brick were burned near Hart's branch, these same bricks being used in the erection of the present building. The building was owned by the Methodists and the Masonic Lodge. The church was on the first floor and the Masonic Lodge Hall overhead. The windows of the church and hall were stained glass. Columns through the church to support the hall overhead had planks nailed to them to separate the men from the women. Walls were wainscoted three feet from the floor. The entrance was a double door with steps to a stile. It was enclosed by a fence, with a hitching post by the side. There was an outside door on the right entrance to the Masonic Hall.

Mr. Wiley Brown and son, John C. Brown, Major J. B. Moore and son, Walter Moore, along with other Methodists did much in the erection of this building. The Browns built the Chancel rail and altar out of cedar and helped with other pieces of furniture. Mrs. Jane B. Gresham, mother of Mrs. Media Moore (J. B.) gave a settee. The church seated five hundred.

The first records of the church at the Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, Tennessee, show that in October 1872, Brother J. J. Pittman was assigned to the Smyrna charge. Records show that he came to Smyrna in May 1873 and organized the church. Eighty-five were taken in by certificate and fourteen baptized, making a total of ninety-nine members. These members were the Moores, Kings, Browns, Jarretts, Lowerys, Davises, Jameses, Tunes, Ruckers, Hagers, Espeys, Sanders, Williams, Phipps, Owens, Engles, Whites, Hunters, and Hights. These members were transferred from Espey Chapel, Olive Branch Church, Shady Grove (Campground), Overall, and some of the members came from other churches. These members were leaders in the church for many years. Wiley Brown was trustee from 1872 until his death in 1904. W. V. Jarrett was Sunday school superintendent for twenty-seven years. The Moores, Jarretts, Owens, and Browns were the first stewards of the church.

On the first roll of the church were the Sam Davises (the Confederate hero), the grandmother, Elizabeth Simmons, his father, Lewis Davis, Sr., mother, Jane Davis and brother Oscar Davis. Throughout the years other members of the family were active in the Smyrna church.

In 1883 the church was valued at two thousand dollars, the organ at fifty dollars. At this time there was an active Epworth League, Missionary Society, Sunday school and educational program. In 1883 the Masonic Lodge disbanded and the Methodists bought their interest for three hundred dollars. Records state that when the three hundred dollar note was paid, work would start immediately on remodeling the church. The hall was used for recreation room for the town and at one time for a private school.

Along about this time, the Neelys, Kings and Peytons, came into the church. The remodeling of the church started in 1901. The roof was torn off and the walls of the Lodge hall removed to the top of the church windows. A front entrance was built of brick with a cupola. At this time the Good Shepherd Memorial Window was installed honoring W. D. Neely I. This work was completed in 1902, at a cost of one thousand dollars.

In early 1900 the Colemans, Lees, Carters, Hodges, and Beatys, came into the church from the Kedron church. Since that time many other members have come to Smyrna church from Kedron.

All Sunday school classes were held in the chapel until 1921 when three Sunday school rooms were added at the rear. Reports of Rev. A. D. Hill show that on May 21, 1924, new church funds amounted to \$1,500.00.

In 1925, under the pastorate of Rev. W. H. Beasley, additional funds were raised to start the present church. The old church was wrecked in the spring of 1925 and the present building completed in the spring of 1926, and valued at \$28,500.00. Dr. W. J. Engles was present at the laying of the cornerstone in 1871 and also at the laying of the cornerstone in 1926. Materials from the cornerstone of 1871 were placed in the cornerstone of 1926. The church was dedicated at a homecoming on July 21, 1940. At this time Rev. A. P. Walker was pastor. Bishop Paul B. Kern was dedicator, and Rev. O. P. Gentry, former pastor, delivered the sermon in the afternoon. A love feast was held following the afternoon service. Many former pastors, members and friends took part in the service.

This building has a sanctuary and seven Sunday school rooms on



Smyrna

the first floor; a nursery, three Sunday school rooms and a well equipped kitchen and dining room in the basement. The present membership is 330.

The parsonage was bought in 1886. It was remodeled in 1938 under the leadership of Rev. Frank Calhoun. In 1950 this parsonage was sold and a modern parsonage was bought valued at \$9,000.00. This was done under the ministry of Rev. Haskel Henry.

Under the ministry of Rev. Jeff W. Fryer, the church has been redecorated, a pastor's study built at the parsonage, and at the Quarterly Conference on August 19, 1954, the congregation voted to build an Educational Building at a cost of \$22,000.00. Plans are now being made to begin this project in the near future.

On the roll today are descendants of many of the founders of the old Church. Following pastors have served since the organization of the church: (1902-56) , J. J. Pittman, G. W. Winn, L. C. Bryan, O. G. Halliburton, W. W. Graves, R. P. Ransom, T. H. Woodward, J. W. Farris, S. M. Parkes, O. P. Hill, W. T. Haggard, S. S. Fain, M. J. Mabry, J. Rush Goodloe, W. R. Deathley, H. S. McBride, B. T. Smotherman, J. L. Teague, J. P. Funk, C. M. Epps, C. M. Charles, R. D. Kill, W. H. Beasley, O. P. Gentry, H. B. Blue, F. A. Calhoun, Allen P. Walker, S. A. Bass, James W. Lantrip, E. B. Willis, Haskel Henry, Marvin H. Thompson, Jeff W. Fryer.

MRS. NELL E. COLEMAN, *Historian*

THOMPSONS STATION

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The establishment of a Methodist church at Thompsons Station was conceived of first by Dr. Hiram A. Laws, who came to this community from Marshall County, as a young practicing physician, soon after the close of the Civil War.

He found a number of people who were members of the Methodist Church but whose memberships were in churches of other communities. Also he found a number of people whose preference was the Methodist Church but they belonged to no church.

A definite realization of this dream was made in 1872. In 1873 a great revival swept the vicinity and soon after this the Methodist Church at Thompsons Station began to grow. The first services were held in the Christian Church and later in the old school house. Under the leadership of Rev. J. G. Bolton the church was organized with sixteen charter members. Mrs. Sophie Hatton organized the first Sunday school.

In 1874 plans were made to erect a Methodist Church building

and in 1876 this building was completed and now stands. The land on which the church was built was given by Sam A. Pointer. The church was called "Wilkes Chapel" then changed to Thompsons Station.

Two parsonages have been purchased and used until a new one was built in 1949. The land was given by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kinnard for the parsonage.

The Woman's Missionary Society was organized by Mrs. Lurrania Kelly and has recently been changed to The Woman's Society of Christian Service. Other groups in the church include members of the Williamson County Layman's Club and the Methodist Youth Fellowship.

In 1932 Thompsons Station, Burwood and Cowles Chapel were placed on the Thompsons Station Circuit and this continues today.

A Sunday school annex was added in 1915 and also another annex in 1954. Improvements added to the church have been a new roof, chancel and altar fixtures, furnace, memorial windows and electricity. Gifts presented the church have been a power lawn mower, an electric cross and electric organ.

The first young man to enter the ministry from Thompsons Station was Walter Cannon Kinnard. He was ordained in 1954. The church continues to grow and today has a membership of 206 members.

ROBERT W. WALKER, *Pastor*

DODSON'S CHAPEL

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

On August 10, 1820 in East Tennessee, a baby was born who became the organizer of Dodson's Chapel located in Overton County. His name was Thomas R. Dodson who moved to Overton County in 1856. He had the distinction of being a preacher, merchant and farmer. In 1873, he and his wife Martha A. Dodson deeded the land for the church and burial ground to the Methodist Episcopal Church. The trustees were J. L. Dodson, A. J. Gully, and R. J. Thompson. He erected the first church building which was named in his honor "Dodson's Chapel." He served as pastor of the church from the time the first building was erected until 1880. His immediate successor as pastor was Rev. S. L. Clark. There are no records of the charter members. The first church building was a small structure twenty-four by thirty feet which was used until 1906 when it was replaced by a larger structure, thirty by fifty feet. *There was no church organ.* The present building was erected in 1949. It is a brick veneer building with a full-size downstairs, well furnished *and has a piano.* The following compose the board of trustees: Frank Swallows, Kenneth



Dodson's Chapel

Willefrod, and W. M. Danner. Mr. F. T. Moore is church lay leader. We have about 130 members and over a hundred enrolled in the Sunday school. Rev. Ted Malouf is our pastor.

FRANK SWALLOWS, *Historian*

LYNCHBURG

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The Methodist Church of Lynchburg, Tenn., was built in the year of 1873; the lot was purchased from Col. J. M. Hughes for the sum of \$200.00. The trustees who made the purchase were S. E. H. Dance, James T. H. Dance, B. M. Edens, Wiley A. Hobbs, J. S. Bedford, J. W. M. Dance and J. B. Price. The date of the purchase was February 1, 1873. These men were also stewards.

While the church was being built services were held in the frame Court House which stood on the North side of Main Street. The Rev. George Anderson was the pastor and he remained some time after the church was completed. All members worked hard to build the church and gave much time to the work as well as donations and

material. It was a large frame building with five large windows on each side and two doors at the entrance, with stone steps. J. W. M. Dance was head carpenter; working with him were J. H. Allen, Joe and George Ray. Mrs. Nannie Hiles was the first organist. After her death Miss Cassie Warren took her place. Dr. S. E. H. Dance was the Sunday school superintendent, which place he held until his death in 1900 when his son, Dr. E. M. Dance, took his father's place.

The first wedding in this church was William H. Dance and Miss Ann Parkes, on January 13, 1886. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. T. L. Darnell, pastor at that time.

A storm hit the church on the night of October 9, 1909, and damaged it so badly that it had to be torn down and rebuilt. The late D. D. Blythe had the contract. The benches and pulpit stand and chairs were not damaged. Rev. Walter Carter was the pastor. Mr. James T. Bickley was the Sunday school superintendent. After his death, Dr. R. E. Shelton filled his place. George Raby was Secretary-treasurer. At his death Paul Dance was elected.

On Nov. 29, 1936, this church was destroyed by fire, having caught from sparks which came from another building. Again the church furniture was saved. The pulpit chairs donated by the late Dr. S. E. H. Dance to the first church are used in the present church. Rev. Charles Bell had just been sent to Lynchburg by the Annual Conference and he faithfully helped in rebuilding this church. During the construction of the church, services were held at the Court House.

The ground for this church was broken by Mrs. Sue D. Record with services conducted by the pastor. This was in September, 1937. Lon Burton was the contractor. The building committee consisted of Mrs. Lem Motlow, Mrs. Will Stone, Paul Dance, John Allen and Charles Spencer. The first sermon preached in this church was the third Sunday in January, 1939. The presiding elder, Rev. Cullen T. Carter, was present.

At the request of Dr. John E. Dance, his funeral was conducted in the church before it was completed on Thanksgiving Day, 1938. The first three funerals held in the church were first cousins: Dr. John E. Dance, Dr. W. H. Dance, and Petway Enochs.

An unusual thing is that four generations attended this church regularly for twelve years, Mrs. Bird Evans and her daughter, Mrs. Jack Bobo, and her daughter, Mrs. Ervin Crutcher, and her daughter, Joan Crutcher. All were members.

John Allen is the present Sunday school superintendent and has served loyally since 1923 with Charles Spencer as Secretary-treasurer.

The Rev. O. W. Jones (four years) followed by Rev. T. H. Yeargin (four years), Rev. Guerry Reid (two years), Rev. Robert Lewis

(two years), and Rev. J. C. Sandusky now serving his fourth year, are the recent pastors.

In the year 1954, three new Sunday school rooms were added on grounds donated by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Copeland and Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Gattis.

Mr. Charles M. Spencer retired as Secretary-treasurer on account of his health in 1954. Mrs. W. B. Gattis was elected Sunday school treasurer and Mr. Don Bobo was elected church treasurer.

A Men's Bible Class was organized about 1944 with Clifford Fanning as teacher. Since then John O. Barnes, Carl Copeland, and Fred Price have served as teachers.

J. C. SANDUSKY, *Pastor*

TARSUS

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

This nice little country church was organized in 1873. It is over eighty years old. The men who organized the first congregation are Masten Powers, Enos Harned, Tad Dillon, Evalina Marable, William Ellis.

The original building was a log structure. It was a community church used by Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians. In 1876 the property was sold to the Methodists by the name of Alec Outlaw for the sum of one dollar.

In 1902 the log structure was replaced by a neat frame building with a spire. In the 1930's this building was remodeled.

The present site is the original. GLEN MURRELL, *Pastor*

FULLER'S CHAPEL

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

In October, 1873, a few faithful men and women met, and after a season of prayers and the singing of a few hymns, one of which was "Blest Be the Tie," pledged themselves to build a place of worship.

J. R. Mabry gave four acres of land on which to build a log church. Others that were instrumental in the building of the church were: Rev. S. M. Beasley, J. P. Mabry, Jack Lyles, Henry Mabry, and L. E. Plemons.

Rev. Fuller was the first pastor and the church was named in his honor. He served as pastor for a period of five years. A few of the ministers were: W. H. Stricklin, J. W. Osmont, B. W. Blessing, J. W. Drake, J. R. Thomas, T. J. Stricklin, H. P. Keathly, Virgil Pafford, Elliot, and C. W. Clayton.

In 1900 the old log church was torn down and the present frame building was erected. In 1913 the church building was badly damaged by a storm. It was repaired later and has survived all misfortunes through the years. It has come through with flying colors and can still sing the old song, "God Be With You," the closing song which was sung on that cold October morning 'way back in 1873.

The church has an active membership of about forty-five. A. J. Irvin is the present pastor.

A. J. IRVIN, *Pastor*

ARLINGTON

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Arlington Methodist Church had its beginning in 1873 when a group of people in the community got together and organized a Sunday school. The first meetings were held in the Bryan Academy schoolhouse which was in the vicinity of School Lane in Airport Estates. Shortly afterward they moved to a vacant house directly across the highway from the present church. Mr. Dempsey Weaver owned this building. Mr. W. C. Clark, from Central State Hospital, was superintendent and Miss Fannie Brown was organist. Other workers were Miss Fannie Cole, Miss Mary Weaver, Mrs. Mattie Bryan, Mrs. Charles McLester and Miss Sallie Brunson.

Later the group decided that a church should be organized. Land for a building site was given by the family of Calvin Morgan. Mr. Ben Turbeville was asked to direct the work. The house was built of brick and is the sanctuary of the present plant. Dr. Calendar of Central State Hospital donated the chancel rail, pulpit and flower stands, which are still in use. The building was paid for by individual subscriptions. Some of those prominent in this work were Dempsey Weaver, Rev. L. C. Bryan, W. B. Clark, Temple Harris, L. B. Myrick, Ben Turbeville, and a Mr. Capps. These, the A. J. Coles, and McLesters were charter members and all came from McKendree except Mr. and Mrs. Myrick and Mr. Capps, who came from Murrell's Chapel, a Methodist church on Smith Springs Road.

The building was finished in the summer of 1874. Thomas Madin, a chaplain of the Civil War, preached the first sermon. That fall the Conference appointed Wiley Hill to be the church's first pastor. Later in the year the building was dedicated by Bishop W. M. Wightman. When that day came the building was not completely debt free and it seemed that the service would not take place. But Mr. Dempsey Weaver assumed all debts and the building was dedicated.

The first addition to the building was a single room added to the rear during the ministry of Rev. B. A. Cherry. It was paid for by Miss Mary Weaver, who chose to spend her college graduation gift from her father for this purpose rather than take a trip to Europe.

During the ministry of Rev. W. L. Jackson a basement and one room were added to the west side of the building.

In 1946 a new addition, consisting of four rooms and a rest room, was begun on the west end of the existing annex. This was completed in March, 1949, and dedicated on August 28 of that year. Rev. John I. Dickson was pastor.

In the fall of 1951 another addition was begun, this time on the east side and rear of the building. This gave an enlarged choir loft, kitchen, and dining room, nine classrooms, infant nursery, pastor's study, office, choir room and three rest rooms. It was completed in the summer of 1952 during the ministry of Rev. Hollis B. Hunt.

Further building is needed and is being planned at this writing.

Following is a complete list of the pastors and the years they served: J. W. Hill, 1874-76; Lewis C. Bryan, 1877-80; Lewis Powell, 1881-82; T. A. Kerley, 1883-84; Wycliffe Weakley, 1885-86; W. H. Doss, 1887-89; W. H. Klyce, 1890-91; B. A. Cherry, 1892-95; Thomas R. Curtis, 1896; Peyton A. Sowell, 1897; Lewis Powell, 1898-99; L. R. Ames, 1900-03; T. B. Fisher, 1904-06; Peyton A. Sowell, 1907; T. L. Moody, 1908-10; John J. Ransom, 1911-14; James F. Tinnon, 1915-18; James R. Wright, 1919-22; J. T. Blackwood, 1923; W. L. Jackson, 1924-31; John L. Ferguson, 1932-34; H. M. Jarvis, 1935; Pickens Johnson, 1936-37; Frank L. Calhoun, 1938-40; Dr. J. J. Stowe, 1941; J. J. Stowe, Jr., 1942-44; John I. Dickson, 1945-50; Hollis B. Hunt, 1951-54.

HOLLIS B. HUNT, *Pastor*

MT. GILEAD

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Mt. Gilead Methodist Church of Banner Springs, Fentress County, Tennessee, was organized as a Southern Methodist Church in 1874 by Rev. Reamy Oaks, preacher in charge, with three members: Mrs. Charlotte Norris Ramsey, her son, William Thomas Ramsey, and his wife, Mary Alexander Ramsey. Soon the husband and father, Robert Ramsey, joined and in 1822 another son, Charles Preston Ramsey, and his wife, Nancy Ann Alexander Ramsey, united.

In 1883 Mrs. Louisa Alexander Rodgers moved here from Loudon County, Tennessee, and she and two of her sons, Samuel H. and

Robert H., and her niece, Mrs. Elizabeth Findley Hicks, became members.

For fifteen years services were held in private homes and at different times in three small log buildings used for both school and church purposes—namely, the Ramsey Chapel, about one and one-half miles southeast of the present church; Marietta schoolhouse; three miles northeast of the present location; and later the first Long Branch schoolhouse, about one mile north of the present building.

In 1887 Mrs. Debbie J. Ramsey and Mrs. Marietta Ramsey Rodgers joined, and the same year Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Keese moved from Indiana and united with the church.

The little band then numbered fourteen, and although there were still only a few families in the community, it was decided to build a church. In 1887 or 1888 the first Mt. Gilead Church was erected just south of the cemetery under the leadership of Rev. John Woolsey, preacher in charge.

In 1927 during the pastorate of Rev. A. K. Hankins the present building was erected on the Banner Springs-Tinch Town Road about one-eighth of a mile west of the Mt. Gilead Cemetery.

From this church eight have become ministers, as follows: Robert Ramsey, Charles Preston Ramsey, Perry Emmett Ramsey, Otto E. Atkinson, William M. Stowers, Herman Norris, Mrs. Joe Blane LaRue and Mrs. Lorene Hall.

Perry Emmett Ramsey served as District Superintendent for a number of years.

During the early part of the twentieth century, the circuit to which this church belonged was without a pastor for a period due to lack of interest, shortage of preachers, and especially financial weakness. Yet a remnant kept the gospel fire burning. James P. Taylor, local preacher of the charge, and Charles Preston Ramsey, local preacher of this church, kept the altar of Methodism open. They served as supply pastors.

At present there are seventy-two members.

Banner Springs, Tennessee

MRS. N. C. LARUE

CEDAR GROVE

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

As recording steward I have in my possession some records showing that the Cedar Grove Church was organized in a small school building located about one mile southwest of the present building, which was built of yellow poplar. That was in the year 1874 and was added to the Prospect Circuit.

The first Quarterly Conference for 1874-75 was held at Friendship November 21, 1874. The following churches were on the charge at that time: Mt. Carmel (which is now Stella), Friendship, Aspen Hill, Chestnut Grove, Prospect, Liberty, Cedar Grove, and Trinity. Bethel was added during the year.

At this meeting the following members answered present: Wilbourn Moody, Presiding Elder; John Sherrill, preacher in charge; Elisha Edmundson was elected secretary. The official board present was as follows: H. L. Sanders, J. S. Edmundson, J. F. Westmoreland, W. D. Reynolds, J. S. Shores, J. C. Potts, R. R. Meadows, D. A. Tucker, R. S. Harris, J. F. Amis, J. R. Reagan, D. Reagan, W. A. Brown, S. S. Williamson, J. C. Vaughn, A. T. Long, Albert Ball, J. M. Biles, G. G. Campbell.

The grounds for the present church was given by Mrs. Nancy Everly Tarpley in the year 1887 and was deeded to Samuel Harwell, T. S. Pittard, and Dave Shores as trustees.

The first Quarterly Conference for the year 1887-88 was held in the new church at Cedar Grove December 17, 1887, with the following members answering present: R. K. Brown, Presiding Elder; T. S. Cullum, preacher in charge; J. F. Anderson, J. W. Tomerlin, J. B. Short, S. B. Nance, D. R. Shores, W. T. Keeling, T. S. Pittard, and W. D. Reynolds. The Cedar Grove Church has meant everything to the community through the years. The membership has varied but very little in number, but the attendance and interest have. There have been two from Cedar Grove to go into the ministry for Christ and the church—namely, John Durrett and Harold Loyd. The former has retired and is living in Nashville; the latter still is in the service.

For a number of years there was little done to the church and grounds except to keep the roof on and the weeds cut.

The minutes of the first Quarterly Conference for the year 1895-96 was held at Cedar Grove November 30, 1895, with the following members present: J. R. Steward, Presiding Elder; W. F. Powers, preacher in charge; Sam Harwell, R. W. Holt, R. L. Keeling, W. T. Keeling, C. F. Pittard, T. S. Pittard.

Minutes of the first Quarterly Conference December 7, 1901, show that it was held at Cedar Grove with the following members present: W. R. Peebles, Presiding Elder; J. S. Rice, preacher in charge; Sam Harwell, R. W. Holt, O. G. Ranck, J. S. York.

The records for the next several years were destroyed by fire when Mrs. Margaret Judkins Pittard was recording steward and their house burned. Later Mrs. Alice Garner Hanna was recording steward and the records were destroyed by fire when their house burned.

As I have previously stated, there were no improvements to the building until about 1945, when the Young Adult Class, under the leadership of W. C. Moorehead, preacher in charge, took it on themselves to raise money to redecorate the auditorium and build three church school rooms at a cost of about \$6,000.00 and later bought new pews at a cost of \$1,700.00. At present there are under construction two more church school rooms that will cost about \$2,500.00, of which one-half or more has been collected. At present there are about seven families living in the Cedar Grove community that are descendants of the charter members of the first Cedar Grove Church and are members of the church—namely, Anthony, Davenport, Everlys, Garners, Holts, Pittards, and Rackleys. At present we have 129 active members, counting children. The church school has 131 members with seventy-five to 111 in attendance.

There have been many, many families as well as preachers and their families that have made large contributions to the ongoing of the church that we would like to mention but space will not permit it to be done.

R. W. EVERLY, *Historian*

PLEASANT HILL

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Pleasant Hill Methodist Church is located five miles northwest of Ardmore, Tennessee, on the Prospect and Ardmore road. It was in full operation in 1875. Therefore, it must have been organized sometime between 1870 and 1874. Following were a few of the members in 1875: M. A. R. Vanhozer, J. B. Vanhozer, Jacob Nave, S. G. Heard, M. A. Heard, M. E. Heard, J. B. Folkner, Mandy Moore, M. E. Moore, S. B. Moore, L. B. Moore, C. E. Moore, W. E. Lewter, J. S. Smith, M. A. Smith, Caroline Hargrove, Elizabeth Hasting, Anna King, J. King, Thomas Hargrove, F. E. Hargrove, M. J. Hargrove, M. T. Hargrove, M. E. Hargrove, Davidson Eaves, Senda Eaves, M. C. Eaves, Elizabeth Clem, Sousan Clem, G. B. Bottom. (Evidently there were several other members but their names are not available.—Ed.)

The land for the building lot was donated by Mr. J. C. Vance August 19, 1880. The deed was recorded in the Register's Office of Giles County, July 25, 1881, at 9 A.M., Book M.M., page 330. The first trustees were: E. H. Holland, J. C. Vance, Thomas Bottom, James Brown, John Brown. The first pastor was Rev. Duncan. For several years the church was known as the "New Church."

In 1947 the old church building was removed and a modern plant was erected on the same site under the leadership of the pastor, Rev.

Walter Bunn. It is a two-story building, with memorial windows, large downstairs for social and educational purposes and several classrooms. In 1948 Mr. W. C. Twyford donated an additional half acre of land to the church property. In 1952 an oil-burning furnace, thermostatically controlled, was installed. The church became a half station with Elkton Methodist Church in 1948. The building was dedicated by Bishop Paul B. Kern in 1948.

Rev. H. L. Smith is the present pastor.

MRS. CHESTER TWYFORD, *Historian*

P.S.: It is reported that G. B. Bottom gave some land to the church also. Editor.

HICKORY HILL

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

We do not know how many years the Hickory Hill Methodist Church has been in existence. We do know that there was an old log church before the present structure was built. The present church was built about seventy-five years ago, but was remodeled two years ago.

Mr. Morse Haynes, one of the oldest men in this county, tells the story of passing by the Hickory Hill Church sometime before the Civil War. He noticed that someone had accidentally shot some "buckshot" into some of the logs of the church.

GEORGE B. LANDIS, *Historian*

MT. ZION (Petersburg Circuit)

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Mt. Zion Methodist Church is an appointment on the Petersburg Circuit. The records of this congregation were destroyed by fire in 1953, which makes it practically impossible to give but little detailed information about this church. August 7, 1875, William Crabtree sold two and a half acres of land for church purposes. The deed was made to the following trustees for Mt. Zion Methodist Church: John G. Blacknal, J. C. Finney, William McLain, A. L. Calahan, and H. E. Adams. The price was \$135.00. We take it for granted that the building was erected and the church organized at this time. Rev. William Thomas Gill, who was admitted on trial into the Tennessee Annual Conference in 1872, was appointed the first pastor in 1875. During the pastorate of Rev. C. M. Epps, 1916-18, the building was re-erected, and it was wired for electricity in 1946 when Rev. W. L. Hayes was pastor. The church has a membership

of about forty and twenty-five in the Sunday school. While the membership is small, it is very loyal to The Methodist Church, its doctrines and traditions. Our face is toward the future. Rev. W. W. Johnson is our pastor. MRS. HUBERT HASTINGS, *Historian*

SCOTTSBORO

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The date of the original organization of Methodism in the Scottsboro community is not known. It is probable that the organization dates from the pastoral ministry of John C. Stevens, the earliest pastor of whose record is found. Grange Hall, originally built as a husbandry about 1875, became the meeting place for the various churches in the community. Here the Methodists worshiped until 1912 when the present place of worship was completed under J. C. Whitson, the first pastor. The building program was initiated in 1910 with the activities of the young people, who raised \$1,000.00. The church was erected on a lot which was donated by T. M. Scott and Emmet Hyde. L. A. Nelson, who lived at Bordeaux, was the contractor. A. J. Howington was the first Sunday school superintendent; G. A. Morgan the first Presiding Elder; and the first marriage that of Ercell Carney to the Rev. Omar Charles, October 26, 1915. In its earliest history Scottsboro was a part of the Cumberland Circuit within the bounds of the East Nashville District. Since becoming a part of the Jordonia Circuit, it has been in the Lebanon, Gallatin, Cumberland and at present the Clarksville District. An educational annex was erected by the pastor, Jacob H. Gardner, and his father, E. G. Gardner, with the assistance of local help, at a cost of \$5,623.76, and was dedicated February 21, 1954. The membership at the last report was 172. The original membership is not available. Scottsboro Church is located in Davidson County on the Ashland City Road near the intersection of the Old Hickory Boulevard.

JACOB H. GARDNER, *Pastor*

JORDONIA

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Methodism was probably organized in the Jordonia community about 1875. The earliest place of worship was Old Zion Church, a brick structure, located on Whites Creek near Jordonia, which was shared by the Baptist and Methodist congregations. This Old Zion Church schoolhouse was one of the first places of worship and

education in this community. For a brief period prior to 1895 the congregation worshiped alternate Sundays in Simpkins Chapel, a building erected by William Simpkins for the Presbyterians, and located on the Hyde's Ferry Pike near Eaton's Creek. The congregation moved to the present place of worship in 1895. The program to erect the present house of worship was initiated by Rev. J. W. Rowlet, pastor, 1893, and was completed during the pastorate of Rev. E. M. Harrell in 1895. The church originally to be called the Green Morrow Memorial (which name was abandoned) was dedicated about 1897 as Jordonia Methodist Church. The building, designed by Dr. D. E. Banks, was erected on a lot deeded by Dr. J. H. Jordan, whose funeral was the first service to be held in the new building. On the original board of trustees were Robert E. Hunt, A. G. Drake, E. T. Walton and others. The estimated membership at this time was sixty-two. During the pastorate of S. M. Cherry, Jr., Jordonia Church was a station in the years 1902-06. It was a part of a three-point circuit which included Scottsboro and Bordeaux until 1938 when Bordeaux became a station, leaving Jordonia and Scottsboro a half station with the parsonage erected at Jordonia. The most recent major program is the erection of a church school annex, expected to be complete by summer, at an estimated cost of \$6,000.00. Present membership is 165. Jordonia Church is located on the Old Eaton's Creek Road near the Ashland City Road in Davidson County.

JACOB H. GARDNER, *Pastor*

RYE'S CHAPEL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

About 1876 a number of citizens of Walnut Grove community felt the need of a place to have church and a minister for the purpose of public worship. Hence a Methodist congregation for a church was organized; and from the best records we can obtain, we find the following names as being the founders of Walnut Grove Methodist Church: Dr. T. H. Rye, M.D., Joe B. Weems, Sr., and T. B. Watkins, Esq., and the following names are charter members: Dr. T. H. Rye, M.D., and wife, Martha Rye, Joe B. Weems, Sr., T. B. Watkins, Esq., A. J. Baxter, W. E. Dickson, Maria I. Dickson, and Jennie Weems.

The record indicates the first pastor for the above named church was Rev. A. T. Goodlo, followed by Rev. J. W. Cullom, Rev. B. M. Stephens, Rev. G. S. Byrom, and Rev. W. T. S. Cook.

In 1893 Dr. Rye and A. J. Baxter donated a plot of land other than the Walnut Grove Methodist Church, and a new building was

erected in 1893 and named Rye's Chapel Methodist Church. The first pastor of the new church was Rev. W. T. S. Cook and in 1897, being cleared of all indebtedness, was dedicated as the property of the Southern Methodist Church and the trustees at the time the church was completed were named as follows: J. C. Batson, W. E. Dickson, T. B. Watkins, Jim Harper and Edward E. Rye.

Under date of September 5, 1902, the church graveyard was donated by G. F. Talley and wife, Lida.

The church is still active with about 150 members.

J. U. MORRISON, *Historian*

PLUMMER'S CHAPEL

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

At some time prior to September 12, 1874, a plot of land containing five acres was given to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, by Jesse Plummer. The deed was recorded September 12, 1874, and was issued by N. W. Covey, executor of Jesse Plummer's will.

The church site is located approximately nine miles east of Savannah, Tennessee, in Hardin County.

The trustees of the church were J. M. Smith, L. E. Covey, W. D. Robinson, W. M. Perkins, William Robinson, N. W. Gotterlson, Allen Davis and James B. Covey.

The first building erected was a log house. Rev. Mitchell was the first pastor. The first building was destroyed by fire and replaced by another. The present church is the fourth one to be erected on the original site. It was erected in 1948.

Rev. Jack Irvin came out of Plummer's to accept God's call for the ministry in 1952. Fuller's Circuit was his first charge. He is now in Martin and will graduate this year (1955).

Mrs. Georgie Robertson, who is in the eighties, was made honorary steward at the second Quarterly Conference, which was held in the Eureka Church February 21, 1955.

JAMES T. JOHNSON, *Pastor*

SUMMERFIELD

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The original building for the Summerfield Methodist Church was erected in 1875. The congregation was organized sometime prior to this date. The land was donated by Mr. and Mrs. John Quarles. Their home was used for church services during the time of the

erection of the church building. Mr. Quarles assisted in building the house and died February 15, 1880. Among the early pastors were Rev. George Nichols, Rev. Alex Barns and Rev. George Wilmoth.

The original building was dismantled and the materials were used in the erection of the present building in 1920. Additional lumber was secured from the Baxter mill. This information was supplied by Mr. Albert Stone who assisted in the work. Rev. Burley Arnold was pastor when the second building was erected. The present church membership is eighty.

A. C. COBBLE, *Pastor*

CLARKRANGE

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Clarkrange is located on the Cumberland Plateau. Very little is known of the early settlers and especially the Methodists of the pioneer period. In the early days religious services were conducted in the homes of the mountain people. It was finally decided to erect a church building. It was named "Mt. Union," since all the denominations were free to use it.

The Presiding Elder scheduled a Quarterly Conference on one occasion which happened to be the day the Baptists also had announced a service. The Baptist preacher refused to yield the pulpit. The Quarterly Conference was held, we suppose in the open, and during this session it was voted to erect a Methodist church building. The work was begun in good Methodist fashion. Rev. M. C. Bruner was the pastor. The following were elected trustees: John Lowe, John Cross, A. Todd. A building lot was donated by J. A. Carey and his wife Lucinda. The building was erected, we suppose of logs, near the Clarkrange Post Office which is now the cemetery.

By 1896 the congregation had outgrown the first building. It was the general opinion that a new and larger building was needed. Finally Tom Peters, James Peters, John Ashburn, W. P. Little, John Cross, W. K. Todd, Stephen Todd, Sr., and others met in the home of W. H. Peters to discuss the possibility of a new building. It was decided to build. A two-story structure was decided upon, to be erected near the original building, the second story to be used by the Masonic Lodge. Plans were made, work was begun and the building was ready for occupancy by 1898. A lease was given to the Masonic Lodge for ninety-nine years. W. K. Todd, Bill Todd, and James Peters served in turn as Sunday school superintendents and with the assistance of others conducted services occasionally in the absence of the pastor.

The membership increased steadily and a few years ago talk began

for a still larger and better equipped building. Shade trees, a bus, and the second story were used for classrooms. Finally in 1949 during the pastorate of Rev. W. H. Byars work was begun on the larger building. Progress is slow but we are not discouraged, for we remember that the great temples were not erected in a day. We are dreaming that in this beautiful building some day will be installed a pipe organ that will send forth the praises of God in this mountain area where once, near by, Peter Cartwright turned a dance into a prayer meeting.

W. D. OWEN, *Pastor*

PAUL'S CHAPEL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

In the Civil War period the church for the community was called Bethel which was located near the old Lowery Cemetery one mile east of the present-day church. In 1875 Mr. Paul Jones Naylor gave the site for a building which was used for a church and school purposes. The new church was dedicated "Paul's Chapel," in honor of Mr. Paul Jones Naylor. The following citizens of the community took active part in the new church: Mrs. D. S. Lewis, Mrs. Angel Wilson, Mr. William Carrel Bradford and others. Mr. Bradford served as one of the stewards for forty years.

Rev. E. K. Denton was pastor of the Cumberland City Circuit for two years—1898 and 1899. During his ministry the congregation grew rapidly until the building became inadequate. Before he left the charge, the congregation began to make plans for a new building. Mrs. John Sikes and her family gave the building site for the new church. However, it was not until 1900 in the first year of the pastorate of Rev. H. B. Blue that actual work was begun. In May of this year the following building committee was elected: Thomas Jefferson Lowery, chairman; Sam Wickham, treasurer; W. H. Trinkle, secretary; George Washington Powers, Brice M. Weaks, Henry Clay Parchman, Frank S. Williams. The church building this committee erected is now serving the Paul's Chapel community. The exterior appearance of the building was changed in 1923 when a wind storm damaged the cupola which was fifty feet tall. It was removed completely.

In addition to the pastors mentioned above the following have served the church: J. K. Lee, W. J. Walkup, O. P. Hill, W. F. Powers, D. H. Reed, W. H. Lovell, F. G. Dickson, J. J. Mabry, J. W. Estes, E. F. Hudgens, J. R. Simpson, F. L. Hawkins, J. L. B. Cash, Ralph Dodson, Eugene Lovell, W. C. Westenberger, M. B. Wil-

liams, J. L. Taylor, J. W. Kelley, J. D. McReynolds, Vernon McGhee, C. F. Belew, J. C. Elliott, Eunis Crowe, Luke E. Fuqua, and Leo Parker, who is our present pastor.

GERSTAL WATTS, *Historian*

PORTER'S CHAPEL

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

Porter's Chapel Methodist Church was erected and dedicated in 1875. The land, consisting of two acres, was purchased by Mr. Nelson Porter from Mr. Jay Hunter (their fathers were original settlers of the community) and given to the community for a new church to replace Hunter's Church.

The one-room building, constructed by the people of the community and Hunter's Church, still contains the original pews and the handmade chancel railing.

Porter's Chapel has remained active during its entire eighty years although its membership has never been very large—approximately 200 members at the most at any time. S. E. Isbell is superintendent of the Sunday school. Rev. V. P. Felker is our pastor.

MARY A. GIBSON, *Historian*

WOODBINE

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

The Woodbine Methodist Church has enjoyed a long, useful life, growing steadily year by year. The early struggles were manifest when small groups gathered on Captain James M. Smith's lawn, corner of Fertilizer Lane (now Glenrose Avenue) and the Nolensville Pike, to hold open-air services. Among them were two young women, Medora Hughes, daughter of Captain David Hughes, and Fannie Burch, who married Lewis Waller. To these two (and a few others) goes the credit for our first church building.

Captain Hughes gave the site upon which the church stands. It was to be built by subscription, but was not completed. Captain Hughes came to the girls' rescue and finished the one-room frame structure in 1875 at a cost of \$800.00. He sent his son, Walter, up the Cumberland River to one of his steamboats for the bell.

Medora Hughes named the church "Woodbine" after their home, which bore that name. The church had a seating capacity of what they termed ninety-five sittings and there were five officers and

teachers. We know of five charter members: Judge Brien, his wife, Rochie, Medora and Blanch Hughes, and Fannie Burch. Bishop Wightman appointed Rev. Walter R. Lambuth as the first pastor; he was later elected Bishop in 1910 at Asheville, North Carolina.

At one time Woodbine Methodist Church was in the Murfreesboro Circuit with Thompson's Chapel. Later Woodbine was taken from the circuit, while Antioch, Smyrna, Hamilton and Liberty remained.

The board of stewards for the circuit were: J. Braden, T. Mills, E. Pettus, W. Porter, J. Coleman, S. Hartsfield, G. Baker and S. Hogg.

Some of the class leaders were: G. Clemmons, G. Finney, L. Floyd (superintendent of Thompson's Chapel Sunday school), Charles Jackson, W. Porter, G. Patton, D. Hartsfield and I. Hadley.

The average cost of operating was \$75.00 per year. The congregation outgrew the little frame church and in 1907 the present building was actually begun; in 1915 it was completed.

During World War I Woodbine Church furnished her share of her sons for the defense of our country. In World War II she gave a total of 107, losing eight. It is in memory of these valiant men that our Educational Building was erected. A plaque bearing their names has been placed in the entrance hall.

Woodbine Church has a parsonage of which she is proud, located at 204 Elberta Street.

There are fourteen beautiful memorial windows in the church.

Several young men from our church have gone forth into the ministry; among them are: Sterling Whitley, Ezell Harrison, Jr., Alan McMillan, James Lantrip.

The following pastors have served Woodbine: Rev. William R. Lambuth, 1875-76, William H. Wilkes, 1876-77; J. J. Pitts, 1877-79; George W. Winns, 1879-81; William Doss, 1881-83; W. T. Dye, 1883-84; James R. Plummer, 1884-84½ (died); William Witcher, 1884-85; L. C. Bryan and W. H. Cotton, 1885-86; Sterling M. Cherry, 1886-88; John A. McFerrin, 1888-89; S. L. Fain, 1889-90; William H. Johnson, 1890-92; G. D. Bryne, 1892-93; W. B. Patty, 1893-94; W. R. Thornton, 1894-95; W. A. Leath, 1895-99; T. E. Alford, 1899-1903; T. W. Noland, 1903-07; John Durrett, 1907-10; E. D. Lewis, 1910-12; J. W. Faires, 1912-14; W. E. Doss, 1914-17; George L. Beales, 1917-21; John F. Baggett, 1921-24; William M. Lantrip, 1924-28; A. J. Morgan, 1928-29; W. T. Haggard, 1929-30; C. E. Hawkins, Jr., 1930-32; E. B. Willis, 1932-37; H. T. Tipps, 1937-41; William T. Steele, 1941-45; Pickens Johnson, 1945-50; Vernon T. McGhee, 1950-53; J. Elma Broyles, 1953- .

Rev. J. Elma Broyles is our present pastor.

VIRGIE MAE NOTGRASS GRIGG, *Historian*

GREENVILLE

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

Greenville Methodist Church has for many years served the religious needs of the people of Germantown community.

In 1871 seven families purchased land in this section and formed a colony moving here. Their first interests were to clear land and build homes but in 1876 they built a log building which served as church on Sundays and school during the week. In 1880 this building was destroyed by fire when the woods burned off. The settlers then went to work and replaced this building with a frame building. It was interesting to note when this building was torn down in 1954 to be replaced by a new concrete block structure that the sills were hand-hewed the full length of the building. The nails used were square.

In 1885 Centennial Community Church became Greenville Methodist, and Methodist ministers have been serving the community ever since. In 1944 a building fund was started and in 1947 the basement unit of our church was built. In 1954 the auditorium was added; even now we vision additional church school space. We at present have a church membership of 123 and church school membership of 145 with nine church school classes. We are serving a growing community and we are striving to keep pace through a well-rounded church program. Times have changed since the first log church was built at Greenville but the religious needs of the people are just as great today as they were then. So our vision leads us on to greater service to God and our fellow man.

DOYLE MASTERS, *Pastor*

PLEASANT HILL

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Pleasant Hill Church is situated on a hill, as the name indicates, in Moore County, Tennessee. It and the cemetery adjoining are almost surrounded by woodland.

This church was first known by the name of Harper's Ferry, and the congregation first met in what must have been a schoolhouse at the bottom of the hill on which the present church stands.

On September 30, 1876, Mr. J. T. Baxter gave three acres of land for a church building and cemetery. The trustees at that time were: Marion Huffman, William Edens, William Hasty, Douglas Harper, and Jefferson Flippo. A considerable number of the present members are descendants of these men. A log church was built on this

site. The first person buried in the cemetery was a child, Alice Reynolds, who died on September 12, 1878.

On June 21, 1893, Mr. J. T. Baxter gave more land for a new church building. The trustees at that time were: R. F. Reynolds, A. M. Huffman, J. T. Damron, T. J. Neal, and G. J. Gore. The church then sold part of the former land to Moore County, and the old log building became a schoolhouse.

About the year 1916 a group of people met at this church to worship. Someone had too much kindling in the wood stove, and sparks caught the wood shingle roof on fire. The church burned to the ground. However, under the able leadership of the Rev. Floyd Tipps, now deceased, a new church was soon built. An extra acre of ground was purchased from Mr. W. A. Flippo, and the church was built partly on this ground, giving more room for the cemetery. This is the church building that is standing today.

ALENE NEAL, *Historian*

SOUTHSIDE

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

It was back in 1870 that the first settlers built on land that appeared to be little more than a briar patch in the Sixteenth District of Montgomery County. The village, which was given the name of Collinsville, began to grow as families settled near creeks and springs. Postal authorities later changed the name to Southside, as another village, Colliersville, Tennessee, caused confusion in the mail service.

It has been said that, next to a home, the church came second in this country. Rev. Lewis Lowe, seeing the need of having religious services, aroused residents to help in the movement of making an improvised church in the form of an arbor. The minister led in the movement. Puncheon seats, made of logs smoothed on one side and put together with pegs, were used for seats—they had no backs. This situation did not keep worshipers from attending the long sermons, for which they traveled miles to hear. For his leadership in those pioneer days the Rev. Lowe's name is revered at Southside now among the descendants of the early settlers. Rev. Lowe was not an ordained minister, but he served as pastor of the church for seven years.

After the arbor came a school; it served later also as a church. It was in this log building that the first Sunday school was organized.

About seven years after the community was established Rev. Lowe, along with the citizens, decided it was time to build a church. He again led the people in the effort which resulted in the construc-

tion of a church in 1877. The congregation named the new church "Marvin," in honor of Bishop Marvin.

Williamson Frazer and W. J. Lyle donated two acres of land for the church site. They deeded the tract to the church trustees on September 22, 1876. The trustees elected were W. C. Harris, Thomas T. Harper, and John M. Dickson. John Neblett gave one-eighth acre of land on which to build a parsonage for the Southside Circuit. The church was finished in August, 1877. The first ordained minister was the Rev. J. T. Goodloe.

Methodist members have kept their church improved and enlarged to meet growing demands. Recently it was remodeled and redecorated, and in 1953 a new parsonage was built. Years ago a belfry with a bell was added, so that the tones would ring out to all people to worship. Four new, well-equipped Sunday school rooms, a new basement and a furnace installed, electric lights and new chairs for the choir loft now make it an up-to-date, modern rural church. Rev. B. H. Brandon is our pastor.

MRS. IRENE HUNTER, *Historian*

WHITE BLUFF

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

According to the record, Alex Kerr and George Hutchenson sold a lot June 9, 1877, to W. C. Charlton, H. M. Carroll, Thomas Whitfield, M. W. Hooper, and C. H. Yates as trustees for the White Bluff Methodist Church. The deed was recorded in Book T, page 179. It is reasonable to believe that the church was organized in operation before the building lot was secured. The church did not appear in the Conference Journal until 1881. The age of the organized church must be reckoned from 1877. In early years many churches were in operation from one to several years before they appeared in the Journals.

The original church building was rebuilt in 1902 during the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Gilbert. It was replaced by a beautiful white clapboard building in 1926. Sunday school rooms were added in 1927. Rev. P. E. Cates was pastor during this period of construction. The entire plant was completely destroyed by fire with the greater part of the business district January 7, 1946. Soon after the fire, the erection of the present beautiful edifice was begun. Rev. W. F. Springer was the pastor. It was occupied in 1948 during the first year of the pastorate of Rev. J. H. Gardner. All indebtedness on the plant was paid by 1954. The building was dedicated June 26, 1955. The dedicatory sermon was delivered by Rev. H. T. Tippetts,

Superintendent of the Clarksville District. It was a great day for Methodism in White Bluff.

There is no reliable information when the Methodist Episcopal Church had its beginning in White Bluff. It was probably organized and the building erected in 1897. From the beginning the congregation had a struggle to exist. A wholesome spirit existed between the two Methodist congregations. In fact, Thomas Whitfield, a trustee of the Southern Church, was also a trustee of the Northern Church. By 1920 the Methodist Episcopal Church decided it was for the best interest of all concerned to disband. The property was sold to the Woodmen of the World. Later it was secured by the Odd Fellows, and today the property belongs to the Masonic Lodge. A large percentage of the members moved their church membership to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, many years before the unification of American Methodism in 1939.

Official records of this church divulge the fact that it seems to have seldom been without "local" preachers to assist in its efforts. Among these one "Tip" Hunter stands out as probably the most colorful. Crippled severely and therefore under great handicap, he has left, from his turn of the century ministry, a deep and lasting impression of a really saintlike character that has abounded both to his credit and to the credit of the Christ and the Methodist Church that he represented.

Rev. Charles Hawkins, at this writing pastor at Dickson Church and therefore pastor to the present Governor of Tennessee, obtained his license to preach from the White Bluff Quarterly Conference, although he had been reared in Nashville.

White Bluff Methodist Church through the years was associated with neighboring churches in forming a pastoral charge. Among the number the following were associates: Burns, Craggie Hope, Kingston Springs, Lone Oak, Pegram and Barr's Chapel. Since 1949 it has been a half station with Burns Methodist Church and the appointment officially listed as "White Bluff-Burns."

No definite date can be established for the erection of the parsonage. Several of the older members agree that it was built or rebuilt in 1907 during the pastorate of Rev. A. Edgar Carson.

JOHN L. VAN NESS, *Pastor*

GORDONSVILLE

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

The original Methodist Church in Gordonsville, Tennessee, stood where the Nazarene Church is now located. The land for this church

was given by Mr. J. B. Anderson. The exact date of this building is not known, but it was constructed before 1876.

The old church was torn down and moved to its present site in 1906. The land for this church was given by Mr. W. M. Gwaltney. In this same year the first Missionary Society was organized.

Following is a list of the ministers with approximate dates: 1900, Jarrest; 1904, Webster; 1908, J. W. McClarin; 1911, E. R. McCord; 1914, J. W. Faires; 1915, T. E. Marshal; 1916, J. W. Swann; 1920, R. L. Porter; 1924, H. A. Hamby; 1926, Felix Coleman; 1927, J. R. Wright; 1929, J. M. Putnam; 1930, J. B. Estes; 1934, E. H. Hudgens; 1936, A. C. Parker; 1937, J. T. Cotton; 1941, John I. Dickson; 1943, R. D. Davis; 1946, J. B. Morehead; 1953, Forrest B. Slone; 1954, Gerald Mustard.

The following compose the present official board: Andrew Petty, Albert Nizon, Oliver Gwaltney, Frazier Armstead, Mrs. Ivy Agee, Sr., Bart Gwaltney, Mrs. Clyde Bass, Mrs. Elbert Orange, D. T. McDonald, Ivy Agee, Jr., Mrs. Thelma Preston, Mrs. J. L. Bass, Mrs. Oliver Gwaltney, Nancy Nixon. JESSE E. WILSON, *Historian*

DOWELLTOWN

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Dowelltown Methodist Church was organized between 1875 and 1880. The deed was registered in 1882.

The church was organized by the first pastor, Rev. W. B. Rippetoe, First Lieutenant James H. (Pet) White (of the Civil War) and his wife, Nancy P. White, Mr. and Mrs. Neal Turrentine, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Chapman, Judge and Mrs. Winket T. Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Allen Wright, Sanford Mann, and Mr. and Mrs. John Turner.

The original building is on old highway 26 west, about 300 yards from the Post Office and has been sold for private property. Present location of new church erected in 1954 is southeast of the business section, facing north on College Street just off new highway 26.

There were fifty members when the church was organized; from 1925 to 1940 the membership was as high as 250. Present membership is only 150 due to population moving to cities and public works.

Joe Howard Elledge entered the ministry from this church in August, 1955.

Asbury Methodist Church was one of the oldest churches in DeKalb County, one mile east of Dowelltown. It was organized before the Civil War by Rev. D. P. Searcy, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Chapman, Rev. Joe Banks, Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson Williams, Judge and Mrs.

Winket T. Robinson. It was united with Dowelltown in 1933 by the pastor, Rev. P. M. Clayton, Central Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Six generations of the descendants of the Whites, Chapmans, Williams, Robinsons, Banks, who organized these churches, still live in the community.

By faith in God, hope and love for our church and membership, the Dowelltown Methodist Church survives after being destroyed twice by storms, 1879 and 1913, several drouths, panics, three wars, and other disturbances.

MRS. ROBERT J. WHITE, *Historian*

McKENDREE MEMORIAL

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

The Methodist Church in Portland was organized in 1877 by a small band of loyal members. It was officially organized with twenty-three members and its pastor. The church now has approximately 500 members.

Charter members of the Methodist Church in Portland were, in the order listed in the Class Book, Thomas B. Moore, James M. Anderson, Watson Goosetree, Sallie A. Redman, Lizzie A. Berry, Malissa A. Anderson, Elias Fulghum, Tabitha Fulghum, Loella N. McGlothlin, Martha W. Beson, Laura D. Wright, General T. Wright, Mariah L. Moore, Mary A. Moore, John W. Griffon, Georgia A. Griffon, Napoleon B. McBennis, Cora Chowning, Marion Hayes, Maggie Jernegan, Mary Truett, Elizabeth N. Anderson and Ann C. D. Wigglesworth.

The following information, contained in the first record book which dates back to the organization of the first church, will present in a vivid way the beginnings of the Methodist Church in Portland. This information is from the "Class Book" for Richland Methodist Episcopal Church, South, organized in 1877 by G. M. Sanders, who was transferred from Pleasant Hill.

"Brother John T. Hughes was the Presiding Elder when the church was organized by G. M. Sanders. Brother W. L. Wright under L. B. Alison, Presiding Elder, took charge for 1878. He left the circuit on account of meager support after third Sunday in April, after which the Presiding Elder employed me (then supernumerary) to fill out his time. Brother L. L. Pitts next took charge. He remained during the 1879. Then Brother Henry B. Blue under N. B. S. Owings took charge of Gallatin Circuit and Sumner Mission and on account of afflictions of Owings and his wife, Blue had to be preacher in charge of the whole charge.

"During the year 1880 after which I find myself placed in charge of what for years has been known as the Fountain Head Charge,

first a circuit and then a mission as it is in the year 1881. Brother B. M. Stephens was Presiding Elder when Brother Blue took charge, and is yet.”

G. M. SANDERS, *Preacher in Charge*

The first congregation worshiped in the school building which stood where the First Baptist Church now stands, from 1877 to about 1890. In 1890 this hard-working group felt that a church edifice should be built. A site was picked out on Church Street and a building erected which served as the sanctuary for nearly sixty years.

Having outgrown its church building, the Portland Methodist membership in 1940 began to consider the matter of building a new sanctuary in another location. The place decided upon is the spot where the church now stands. The building committee was composed of the following: R. L. Hill, chairman; John Wilkinson, treasurer; H. T. Hester, W. S. Moore, G. W. Venters, R. W. Enders. After crossing many high hurdles and seemingly rugged peaks, a new church building was erected which is a monument to wise and careful planning. It is valued at more than \$100,000.00. From far and near, other congregations interested in building new sanctuaries have come to study the beautiful structure here. The pastor's report to the fourth Quarterly Conference, August 29, 1947, carries the following statement: "This year has been great for the entire membership. They have completed the work on the new church building, which at this time is the most complete and beautiful in our Conference. The members of this church can be justly proud of this building which brings to reality that which has been in the minds and hearts of these people for seven long years." The construction of the building was started during the pastorate of Rev. J. F. Swiney and completed during the pastorate of Rev. Vernon T. McGhee in 1947.

CARL ELKINS, *Pastor*

BREWER'S CHAPEL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Brewer's Chapel Church is located fifteen miles south of Clarksville, Tennessee, in Cheatham County, northwest corner. The church stands one-half mile south of Highway 41-A on a two-acre plot of ground deeded by G. W. Basford. It was organized in 1877 with a very small membership. Active in its organization were Dave Stack, who later became a local preacher, Wesley Frey, G. W. Stack, and Lewis Stack. G. W. Stack became the first Sunday school superintendent. Sterling C. Brewer, a local preacher, preached the first

sermon in the church and the name became Brewer's Chapel and has never been changed. The original building had a partition with public school in one end and church in the other. In 1909 the original building was torn down and rebuilt near the same spot. In 1922 the building was enlarged and in 1947 Sunday school rooms were added and the sanctuary redecorated.

On Sunday morning, January 14, 1951, the building was destroyed by fire, and on January 17, 1951, the first work on the new building was begun. One year from date of burning of the church the first service was held in the sanctuary of the church. The new building was dedicated on May 10, 1953. Bishop Roy H. Short held the dedicatory service.

The present building is of brick with seven educational rooms and a membership of 142.

Stewards: W. H. Elliott, Eustace Shearron, Dorris Winters, Robert Elliott, Mrs. Jasper Sanders, James W. Walker. Trustees: W. H. Elliott, T. A. Lipscomb, B. W. Shearon. Parsonage trustee: W. B. Elliott. President Woman's Society of Christian Service: Mrs. Conway Eley. Sunday school superintendent: Martin Alley. President M.Y.F.: Mrs. Mary Shearron Winn. Pastor: Rev. John Stavely.

MRS. W. B. ELLIOTT, *Historian*

THARPE

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Bethel Church of the Dover Circuit was organized in 1877 and was located on the Iron Mountain and Fort Henry Road near the Herndon community.

This church drew its congregation from a six-mile radius, comprising some 400 families.

There have been forty-two pastors and about 400 members. The first pastor was Rev. W. F. Rowland and the present pastor is Rev. Clyde Brake.

The register of members was started in 1881. The Presiding Elder was Rev. R. R. Jones and the pastor was Rev. C. H. Yates. There were seven trustees elected in 1897.

In the year 1901 the name and location of the church was changed to the present site and three new trustees were elected. The present trustees are T. N. Weems, C. L. Whitford and Loy Lancaster.

H. CLYDE BRAKE, *Pastor*

PROMISE

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The Promise Methodist Church of Holtland, Tennessee, was organized in 1879. It is located in the northern part of Marshall County on Highway 31-A near Chapel Hill. The first building was a log house. The lot upon which the house was erected was given by Mr. Royster. The early members were Mrs. Kate Dean, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Ralston, Mrs. Mary R. Haley, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Brittain, Mrs. Sophia Walton, Mrs. Ella W. Bell and probably others. Other early family names were Hughes, Smith, Joyce, Holt, Nowlin, Farrar, Swain, Watson, Comstock, Murdock, Ezell, Tanner, Haley, Redmond, Polk, Tucker, Powell, Corlette, and others.

The log building in the course of time became inadequate, and a new frame, one-room structure was erected between the log building and the road. The frame building, which was painted white, served as the place of worship until 1931. It was destroyed by fire Easter Sunday, April 5. The church building was not insured. Within four and a half months after the fire, a new brick structure was erected free of debt. The new building has Sunday school rooms, furnace heat and a beautiful sanctuary. Several people made notable gifts toward the erection of the new building, but the largest was \$1,000.00 by Mr. U. J. Owen which was provided in his will. Therefore, what appeared to a great calamity resulted in a great blessing.

Our present church membership is 189. Several of them live in distant places. We also have a modern Sunday school and a strong Woman's Society of Christian Service and other activities.

Promise Methodist Church has made notable contribution for the cause of Christ and the promotion of Methodism. It was the home church of Rev. Adam Riggs, who united with the Tennessee Conference in 1839; Mrs. Sallie Williams McFerrin, wife of Rev. A. P. McFerrin; Rev. B. E. Johnson (probably B. H. Johnson) and Mrs. Saphronia Walton, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. John Comer.

Promise Methodist Church has always had most excellent pastors. In its early history the following served the church: Revs. Clark, Halliburton, Peebles, Mooney, McFerrin, Lowery, Seay, Johnson, McPeak, Jarrett, and Cullom. In the late years some of the best in the Conference served the church. However, in the more recent years the progress of the church has been hindered in its advancement by inexperienced student pastors. We have a very loyal membership of nearly 200, fine Sunday school and a Woman's Society of Christian Service. We have a goodly number of young adults, young people and children who promise great achievements in the future. Rev. W. T. Buckner is our present pastor.

MRS. MILTON BLACKWELL, *Historian*

TUCKER'S CROSS ROADS

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

The church must have been organized prior to 1879 since the record shows that the building was erected during that year. The land upon which the church building stands was purchased from Thomas Edwards. W. T. and J. R. Ferrell were the contractors for the building. The foundation was built by W. A. McSpadden. The new church was called "Fitzgerald Chapel" and later drifted into "Tucker's Cross Roads," by which it has been called for many years. Rev. Green P. Jackson was the Presiding Elder and Rev. George Staley was the pastor when the church was organized. In 1881, the record shows there were seventy-four members. Today it belongs to the Good Hope Circuit in the Cumberland District and has a membership of sixty-two and the Sunday school enrollment is fifty. Rev. E. U. Robinson is the District Superintendent.

HENRY DAVIS, *Pastor*

VERONA

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The present Verona Methodist Church came in as a result of the division of the Cave Springs Church. The church was moved to its present site, three miles from its former location, about 1880 or 1881. The Rev. T. B. Fisher was the minister at the time of the change and was the first minister at the present church. Four additional rooms have been added to the original building, gas heat has been installed; thus, with additional interior and exterior work, it has helped to meet the needs of the community.

JOSEPH LIGGETT, *Historian*

HARRIS CHAPEL

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The church at Harris Chapel was organized in 1880 and continued on the same location until March 28, 1929. At that time the church was destroyed by high waters of the Caney Fork River. The church was rebuilt on a new lot in 1930 on the highway between Buffalo Valley and Center Hill Dam. The church is near the Putnam and DeKalb County line, but all of the property is in DeKalb County.

B. M. HARNESS, *Pastor*

McEWEN

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

There was a Methodist congregation in McEwen prior to 1889. They worshiped in a school building located on a lot where John L. Deck's house stands. Other Protestant congregations used the same school building also. There was no church building in McEwen except the one owned by the Catholic Church. Just how long an organized Methodist congregation had existed in McEwen before 1889 cannot be determined.

A small town lot was deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, by J. N. McAdo on August 8, 1889, as a gift. It was his intention to make the building erected on the lot a community building for all Protestant faiths. The building started soon after the deed was made and the building of it was a community project. People donated lumber and free work. Even dime collections were taken since a dime would buy a good board to be used in the building.

The construction of the building progressed to the point of completion that services could be held about 1890. The first sermon was preached by Thomas Bowman, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister and an attorney, who also operated a store in McEwen. For quite a while the Methodists and Cumberland Presbyterians used the new building regularly. Other denominations used it infrequently.

There was a debt on the building and Mr. John N. Simpson, a peanut buyer, paid the indebtedness and the Methodists gained full possession of the building and the deed shows it was made to Alexander C. Winstead, Alexander Wright and J. N. Simpson, trustees.

The second church lot which adjoined the first lot was purchased from J. N. McAdo on July 12, 1902, for \$20.00. The Methodist congregation used the old building until January, 1950. It burned on Sunday morning just before time for church school services. McEwen Methodist Church at the time the building burned was the largest church on a five-point circuit.

The congregation worshiped in the auditorium of the McEwen school until late summer of 1952 when the auditorium and three educational rooms and kitchen were completed so services could be held in the new building. Rev. C. D. Johnson, the pastor, and his wife furnished the leadership in getting the new church building constructed. I have never seen two people work more diligently than the Johnsons. In the fall of 1952 the congregation asked to be made a station with a full-time pastor. The salary named was \$2,000.00.

In 1954 four more educational rooms were added to the new church building. The church began to use the new rooms in the fall of the same year (1954). Rev. Luke Fuqua was the pastor at that

time and worked diligently to get the educational rooms completed. Now the church building has a nice auditorium, seven educational rooms, a kitchen, and two rest rooms.

When the old church building burned in January, 1950, the McEwen Church was carrying a budget of about \$1,000.00. The last four years it has raised about \$7,000.00 each year. The membership is 225. There is a church debt of \$8,500.00, which is being discharged at the rate of \$1,000.00 per annum plus accumulated interest.

MARSHALL MOSS, *Pastor*

MORTON MEMORIAL

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The Methodist Church was organized at Monteagle soon after 1880 and shared a union church building with the public school, the Christian Church, and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

In 1895 a movement was started to erect a separate building. It was intended to be a frame building, but through the influence of Mrs. E. E. Hoss, wife of Bishop Hoss, the church was constructed of



Morton Memorial

native sandstone. This put a heavy financial burden on the small congregation, but many interested individuals from other parts of the state made large contributions. Dr. David Morton, who was the first general secretary of the Board of Church Extension, was instrumental in securing a loan from the Conference.

Almost all the labor on the church was donated by the men of the congregation. The Ladies' Aid Society sponsored ice cream suppers and strawberry festivals to supplement the donations and to furnish the completed church. Each of Morton Memorial's beautiful stained-glass windows stands as a memorial to the person or family who gave the window.

In 1897 the cornerstone of the church was laid. The following year Dr. Morton died of blood poisoning. It was then decided the new church should be named for him. Thus in August, 1904, Morton Memorial Methodist Church was dedicated to the memory of Dr. David Morton.

The first addition to this building—an educational unit—was started in 1949 under the leadership of the Rev. Rauzelle M. Johnson. In this unit there are seven classrooms, a Scout room, a kitchen, and a complete gymnasium. It was first occupied in 1952. It is now complete and debt free, and it is to be dedicated soon.

Morton Memorial is well known by many because it is strategically located on U. S. 41 on the highest point of the Cumberland between Chicago and Miami. The tourist attractions and the summer resort in Monteleone bring many visitors to this church.

Morton Memorial is the home church of the Rev. W. A. Swift and Rev. J. T. Blackwood. The Rev. Blackwood is the oldest living member of the Tennessee Conference. He has been a licensed preacher for seventy-seven years and a member of this Conference for seventy-five years. On the first Sunday of May each year, it is Morton Memorial's privilege to hear him preach his annual sermon. This day is the anniversary of his becoming a licensed preacher.

ALLEN HARDISON, *Pastor*

ASBURY

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The Asbury Methodist Church must have been organized about 1880. Some of the older members recall going to church in the old log house which was used for church and school purposes long before the deed to the property was secured in 1891. Rev. J. S. Shasteen was the last pastor of the old log church building in 1888-89. The congregation through its long history has worshiped in three or

four buildings. The present structure is well lighted and heated by gas which was installed in 1955.

The church has only fifty members and the same number enrolled in the Sunday school. It is very proud of the W.S.C.S. It is one of six churches on the Hillsboro Circuit. The church also is very proud of its contribution to the ministry, having sent out Rev. N. I. Townsend, Rev. Hollis Hunt, Rev. O. L. Allison and Rev. E. C. Shelton, who for many years has been one of the leaders in the Conference.

JAMES E. EDDING, *Pastor*

PLEASANT GROVE

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The present Pleasant Grove Church has roots which can be traced to Moore's Chapel and Knight's Camp Ground, which was organized in the early 1880's by Rev. S. M. Parks. There is no written record as to membership of Moore's Chapel. It has been estimated that at the time of organization Knight's Camp Ground had a membership of fifty members.

In 1929 a building was purchased from the Cottage Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church at a price of \$400.00. Knight's Camp Ground Methodist Church and Moore's Chapel were consolidated and deed was granted to the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church on October 2, 1929. Dr. A. J. Dimmons and wife gave a land grant to the church on October 4, 1932, thus allowing a larger ground space for the church. Membership at this time was sixty-nine. Pleasant Grove has grown over the years until now there are 115 members. On October 10, 1949, ground was broken for the present brick building of the church. Opening services were held the second Sunday in January, 1950, with the Rev. H. L. Smith, pastor. Dedication services were held Sunday, June 8, 1952, with Rev. Grady Wall, Superintendent of Murfreesboro District, presiding.

Out of this church has come one minister, Rev. Wayne Clift.

CHARLES THAXTON, *Pastor*

SAILOR'S REST

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Fire is said to have destroyed that first brick meetinghouse a few miles east of Sailor's Rest. The land was given by J. B. Jackson for the first building which served both Presbyterian and Methodist bodies. The first building also served as a school.

Later the county took over the old building for Center Point school. Presbyterians built their own Williams' Chapel a few miles away, and the Methodists built Sailor's Rest near the center of the community. It was that second church which burned in 1948. There is now a very pretty building there. Rev. J. Paul Williams, a member of the Holston Annual Conference, entered the ministry from this church.

GLENN MURRELL, *Pastor*

ALEXANDER

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

We are unable to determine at just what date the Methodist Church was organized in the Water Valley community, who organized it, or how many charter members composed the congregation.

However, for some years previous to 1882-83 services had been held by the Methodist people in an ancient log schoolhouse, located on land belonging to Abe Kinzer, on Leiper's Creek, about one and one-half miles south of the present church building. During this time the church was one of the appointments on the Santa Fe Circuit.

In 1879 the Rev. R. W. Seay was appointed pastor, and under his leadership the present building was erected in 1882-83 and named "Alexander" in honor of two brothers, G. M. D. Alexander and Eben Alexander, who donated the site for the building.

At one time this was a strong rural congregation with a total of more than 100 members. But in recent years the membership has steadily declined until there are only twenty-five members now.

In 1932 the church was changed from the Santa Fe Circuit to the Williamsport Circuit, with which charge it has remained ever since. In 1934 a Woman's Missionary Society was organized, and in 1947 the church was repaired and remodeled, so that it is in fair condition at the present time.

So far as the records show, no preacher has entered the ministry from the Alexander Church.

G. E. GODWIN, *Pastor*

FARMINGTON

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The Farmington Methodist Church was organized in 1881 by the division of Cave Springs Methodist Church. The division resulted in the formation of two new churches, the other being at Verona. Rev. T. B. Fisher, a member of the Tennessee Conference since 1869, was the first pastor. There were thirty charter members. Rev. W. A. Turner, a member of the Tennessee Conference since 1860, alternated with Brother Fisher as pastors. This plan for pas-

toral work continued for eight years. The original building, which was located next to the present site, was struck by lightning and destroyed by fire in August, 1921. A new building was begun soon thereafter and was completed in October, 1922. The public school building was used during the erection of the new building.

The Farmington Methodist Church has had no permanent pastoral charge relationship. On two different occasions it was associated with the Chapel Hill Circuit and on two different occasions it was associated with the Berlin Circuit. It has been on the Berlin Circuit since 1948.

The church was awarded \$100.00 from the \$1,000.00 won by the community in the first annual Middle Tennessee Improvement contest. This award started a fund in which all the departments and groups of the church participated. As a result of this participation a new Sunday school building was erected, the interior was refurnished, and a new heating system was installed. We have 150 church members and 136 enrolled in our Sunday school. Rev. George Jones is our popular young pastor. VASHTI LIGGETT MOUNT, *Historian*

MOUNT ZION

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Mount Zion Methodist Church is located in the southern part of Smith County. It was organized in 1881. The original building was damaged by a tornado in 1933. The congregation under the capable leadership of its pastor, Rev. Dan Harris, raised funds for a new structure which was erected a few yards below the original site. It is a lovely frame building which was recently remodeled and decorated.

The church has 150 members. It is growing and promoting a full church program. Its chief activities are promoted through the Sunday school, Methodist Youth Fellowship and the Woman's Society of Christian Service. Through the years the congregation was served by thirty-four pastors and fourteen Presiding Elders (District Superintendents).

OSCAR D. NOLEN, *Pastor*

GREENBRIER

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The location of the present church site is claimed to have been used as an old camp meeting ground. The church is located in the Second District of Williamson County in the extreme western part near Lick Creek. In 1881 a log house was erected which was used for church services until 1892 when it was replaced by a frame

building. This building was almost completely destroyed by a cyclone April 29, 1909, which did so much damage in Williamson and adjoining counties. The damage was repaired and the building was used until 1924 at which time it was torn down and a new church building was erected which is in use at the present time.

H. H. PARSONS, *Pastor*

PARK AVENUE

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Park Avenue Church was founded early in 1882 as a response to a deeply felt need for a Sunday school in the neighborhood. Services were first held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Tucker with Mr. Tucker as superintendent. Afterward permission was given to hold these exercises in the Thirteenth District Schoolhouse located on Clay Street, now Twelfth Street.

Later, William A. Tucker, J. A. Warner, B. F. Lester, J. B. Tucker, E. B. Stahlman and J. W. Dennis decided to build a church. Mr. Lester and Mr. Warner agreed to give a lot if Mr. William Tucker would raise \$1,000.00 to be used toward the building. The site chosen was on what is now called Seventeenth Avenue, North (near Watkins Park) and by April, 1882, the building was under construction. In November of the same year the building was paid for and dedicated. McKendree, the pioneer church of Nashville, gave Park Avenue the first organ.

Of the charter members of the church, only three are living: Mrs. Clara Tucker Perry, of Chattanooga; our beloved Mr. C. B. Tucker, still a member of Park Avenue; and Rev. Hugh C. Tucker, third pastor of Park Avenue.

It was under the leadership of J. F. Baggett in 1917 that the congregation moved to its present location on Twenty-First and Charlotte Avenues.

The high ideals of Christian character and social responsibility for which Park Avenue has always stood are embodied in the service rendered in foreign fields by missionaries who have gone out from the mother church to serve humanity. H. C. Tucker in Brazil (credited with wide influence in establishing the Christian Democracy which became the government of Brazil); Miss Mattie Manning, China; Miss Lizzie Mitchel, Japan; Miss Anne Wynee, Mexico; Miss Helen Kinkead, Brazil; and George M. Boyd, Brazil, served with distinction in the lands of their adoption.

Among the pastors have been numbered many outstanding leaders

in Methodism. Rev. J. H. Early, the first appointee, was followed in 1883 by Rev. William Doss.

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Addendum:

Park Avenue, upon recommendation of the Church Conference, the Quarterly Conference and others was ordered sold by the Annual Conference of 1953. (Reasons for the sale, Conference Journal 1953, page 89.)

In the 71 years of its history few churches in the Tennessee Conference rendered greater service over a wider area than Park Avenue. Mrs. Dr. J. W. Perry, Holston Conference, who was for many years a leader in the Woman's missionary work in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and her brothers, Mr. C. B. Tucker who was Superintendent of the Sunday school for forty years and Dr. H. C. Tucker who was a missionary in Brazil for nearly sixty years, are the only known living charter members of Park Avenue.—The Editor.

WHITESIDE

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

In 1882 or 1883, the congregation at Hart's Chapel and Burns voted to unite. Desiring a place midway between the two churches, they secured an acre lot on which Whiteside Church now stands. This land was deeded fee simple gift from W. H. Whiteside, et. al., to T. B. Marks, et. al., trustee. This deed is recorded in deed book TTT, page 315, in Shelbyville, Bedford County, Tennessee.

The sainted T. B. Marks, an itinerant Methodist preacher who had spent the larger part of his long and useful life an itinerant preacher on a circuit extending from North Alabama into Southern Kentucky, did more than any one in carrying through the building and completing the church and would not agree that the church be named for him claiming it should be named for the one who gave the land. He was the first pastor and continued his membership at Whiteside until his death which occurred in 1902 at the age of 80 years.

Brother Marks did as much or more than any preacher of his day to advance the cause of Methodism and it is said of him that notwithstanding the long miles he had to ride, he and his faithful saddle horse were never late to an appointment.

Brother Marks was the main reason for the Whiteside church of today. He built so well and on the firm foundation of a small devout Christian band of men and women, all of whom have passed on to their reward, that the church has continued on from its beginning to the present time uninterrupted as a place of worship with an ever-growing Sunday school. The church is located only 4 miles from the strong First Church in Shelbyville, yet it has a full-time pastor on a good salary, a full church program and is still composed of a group of devout men and women who are rich in their love for their Saviour and neighbor. The present membership is 188.

A. WESLEY HOLDEN, *Pastor*

LONG CREEK

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Long Creek Methodist Church was organized prior to 1884. This church was located in Stewart County, Tennessee, five miles south of Dover, receiving its name from the creek there. The small church was built of logs by individuals of the neighborhood and because of its size it was impossible to accommodate a congregation for funerals which were held in the church yard. Later, the membership growing, a larger building was built.

The first pastor on record was Rev. V. M. Newberry, who served in 1884. The present pastor is Rev. Clyde Brake.

The number of charter members is not on record but from 1884 to 1950 there were 185 members. Due to death and transfers there are only about twenty active members at this date.

H. CLYDE BRAKE, *Pastor*

BELL SPRINGS

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Bell Springs Methodist Church is located at Noah, Tennessee, on highway 41, eight miles north of Manchester. It was organized prior to 1883 on the second floor of a school building where church services were conducted for many years. On one occasion during a shouting revival of religion the floor gave way spilling most of the occupants to the first floor. This ride down to earth started the plan for the present building which was erected near the same location. The church was named Bell Springs because of a large spring near by the depth of which is unknown. It was owned by the Bell family.

Rev. Harvell Williams entered the ministry from this church. Rev. O. W. Jones died during his pastorate here in 1946. He was buried in Manchester. The following pastors served this charge: D. S. Thomposn, W. H. Gilbert, O. P. Hill, J. W. Cullom, G. W. Nackles, R. T. Smotherman, William Qualls, W. J. Collier, R. A. Oakes, O. H. Lane, J. T. Parsons, R. A. Skelton, Rev. Harwell, Rev. Williams, W. H. Freeman, J. W. Crigger, N. I. Townsend, R. C. Reid, H. T. Tipps, A. L. Hodge, Irvin McDonough, N. O. Allen, R. C. Moore, G. T. Reed, H. H. Parsons, W. F. Burden, V. J. Tagsdale, O. W. Jones, Virgil Tipps, W. W. Owen, C. F. Brown, Alton Brown, Ralph Kolemey, R. T. Clifford.

CARL G. FELKER, *Pastor*

MERIDIAN STREET

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Meridian Street Church was formed by uniting two churches, namely McFerrin Memorial and Alex Erwin. McFerrin Memorial was located at Meridian and Foster Streets while Alex Erwin was located at Dickerson Road and Mile End Avenue. Due to conditions at each church, it was deemed wise by Bishop Mouzon and Presiding Elder T. C. Ragsdale that these two churches be combined into one strong church more centrally located to service the community. A majority of both churches were favorable toward consolidation which resulted in the formation of Meridian Street Methodist Church with its location at Meridian and Cleveland Streets.

At the conference of 1924 Rev. John F. Baggett was assigned to McFerrin Memorial and Alex Erwin Churches. He thus had two churches, two parsonages, and the job to build a new church. All church and parsonage sites were sold. Salvage material, as usable, was used in the new church school building which consisted of one floor and the heating plant. The cornerstone was laid April 23, 1925, within less than a year from the new church's conception. A loan of \$50,000 was secured to construct the three additional floors and gymnasium.

The first church services were then held in the present church school building, where it was not uncommon for water to drip on the congregation during the rainy season. Thus, with a faith in God, many sacrifices, and a determination of its people, there resulted an acceptable building in which all operations were conducted until the present sanctuary was built.

Many methods for raising the necessary money to meet the Building Fund notes were used. These included the famous 4-T-9 team, suppers, local talent plays, booths of the fair and finally the famous Charlie Jenkins blackboard.

Under the wise leadership of one pastor, the church membership was educated to the weekly giving method resulting in the ability of the church to meet its bills as due.

The church school loan was retired and the way paved to build and equip the present sanctuary. The church conference approved such on April 26, 1936, and the first service held in the sanctuary May 2, 1937, with Bishop U. V. W. Darlington presiding.

A church parsonage was purchased and pipe organ installed in 1942, during the pastorate of Rev. Paul F. Lanius. The sanctuary was dedicated by Bishop Paul B. Kern September 15, 1946. Since this date the church school has been fully equipped, a chapel built,

a modern kitchen installed, and a portion of the building air-conditioned.

There have been many faithful people and pastors who have held and are holding positions which have greatly contributed to the spiritual and physical growth of Meridian Street.

The ministers who have served Meridian are as follows: Rev. John F. Baggett, 1924-26; Rev. W. H. Johnston, 1926-31; Rev. O. B. Johnson, 1931-35; Rev. E. C. Shelton, 1935-39; Rev. Paul F. Lanius, 1939-43; Rev. O. B. Johnson, 1943-46; Rev. L. L. Cowan, 1946-48; Rev. James W. Lantrip, 1948-50; Rev. A. J. Davis, 1950-54; Rev. Vernon T. McGhee, 1954- .

VERNON T. MCGHEE, *Pastor*

CEDAR VALLEY

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The Cedar Valley Methodist Church was established in 1883, during the pastorate of Rev. Knox Lee. It is located three and a half miles east of Erin in a valley surrounded by cedars from which it takes its name. The building lot was deeded by Mr. Elbert Nichols who also donated much of the building materials and the ground back of the church for a cemetery. Citizens of the community also gave money for the new building enterprise. The first church trustees were: W. G. Brooks, Ishum Breeden, Daniel Black, L. W. Masheny, and E. G. Nichols.

On account of the increase in church membership it became necessary in a few years to add an annex to the one room building. The reconditioned church building became inadequate within a few years and was finally supplanted in 1949 during the pastorate of Rev. Eunis Crowe by a large concrete block building located just back of the original building. The additional building lot was donated by Mr. G. C. Parker who is now owner of the Elbert Nichols farm. This building was finished and dedicated in 1952. Rev. Luke Fuqua was pastor. It is equipped with electricity and modern gas heating arrangements. Mrs. Charlotte (Babe) Rogers who is ninety-nine years of age lives on the hill back of the church. She is very cheerful and an inspiration to all who visit and know her.

The congregation has a full program for a rural church. The Sunday school has an enrollment of 108 with a large percent in attendance every Sunday; 175 on the church roll with 120 active members. The MYF meets on Sunday night which is followed by Prayer meeting with adults in attendance. The Woman's Society of

Christian Service has an enrollment of twenty-three. It is very active and provides many things for the church.

Rev. Leo Parker is our popular pastor.

MRS. VERDELL AVERETT,

MRS. DEWEY GRIFFIN, *Committee*

SHIPLEY

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The first Methodist church in the Shipley community was organized in 1884 in an old log house. It was known as "Chestnut Oak Hill." Rev. James Patterson was the first pastor who was appointed in October 1884. The Presiding Elder was Rev. T. H. Hinson. It was a great day for Methodism in the community for forty-two united with the new church on the day of organization, twenty-two by baptism and twenty by certificate.

The present tract of land, one acre, was purchased from Eli Shipley in 1930 for \$50.00. The money was donated by James N. King. The church has shown splendid and remarkable improvement. The total membership is 100.

A. C. COBBLE, *Pastor*

HUMPHREY STREET

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Humphrey Street Methodist Church is located in South Nashville, on the corner of Humphrey and Pillow Streets. It had its beginning in the last quarter of the nineteenth century as a Sunday school meeting in the upstairs of a grocery store at 1287 4th, Avenue, South. The school grew and the interest was sufficient to organize the congregation into a church in 1885. Rev. J. B. Nutter was the pastor. The building lot was donated by Mr. Alf Hagan about 1890. Upon this lot a frame building was erected which was regularly used until 1929 when it was torn down and replaced by the present brick veneer structure. The auditorium was remodeled in 1947 and new pews replaced the ones which were used in the original building. Several members have really sacrificed for the church, especially in months and years of great adversity. We only mention by name Mrs. T. C. Freeman who has served as pianist for thirty-nine years.

Humphrey Street has the high honor of sharing in the organization of South End Methodist Church. Many young preachers had their first experience in the pastorate in Humphrey Street Methodist Church and it is still considered a student appointment. The

church membership is nearly two hundred. Rev. W. R. Stephens is pastor at the present time. A parsonage was purchased in 1950 at 425 Humphrey Street across the street from the church.

MRS. T. R. CRAWFORD,

MRS. T. C. FREEMAN, *Historians*

DRY CREEK

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Dry Creek church began in 1885 when the congregation was organized and met in a school building. This building was used until 1926, when a new church was built, during the pastorate of Rev. L. F. Haley.

In 1943 the T.V.A. flooded the area with waters of the Tennessee River and the church had to be moved. It was moved and rebuilt on a plot of land given by Rev. W. J. Wilson who had served as pastor for nine years. Marion Gatlin, who was a member of Dry Creek, went into the ministry. Today the membership is only sixteen, but one person, Mr. W. W. Gatlin, has been a member over half a century. He joined the church in 1901. He is now eighty-seven years old. His daughter, Mrs. Myrtle Gatlin Bone, was granted license to preach by the Waverly Circuit Quarterly Conference, October 29, 1955; Rev. H. T. Tipps, superintendent of the Clarksville District presided. She was the first woman in the district to be granted license to preach.

J. W. JARRELL, Jr., *Pastor*

SOUTH END

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

In August, 1909, the congregation of South Street Methodist Church and a large portion of the membership of Humphrey Street Methodist Church united in a tent meeting for the purpose of organizing a new church. At that time Rev. H. W. Brewer was pastor of South Street church and Rev. Seba Kirkpatrick of Humphrey Street church. A large part of the membership of both churches had moved out into the Waverly section. South Street Church was entirely surrounded by a Negro populace. (Predecessors—Bilbo Avenue, 1885; South Street, 1892. Editor.)

The tent was located on the northeast corner of Eighth Avenue, South, and Hamilton Avenue. The revival was conducted by Evangelist Bell G. Regen. A lot across the street from the tent, on the southeast corner, was purchased and when Conference convened,

Rev. George E. Eubank was assigned to organize and build the new church. During that winter the congregation worshipped in a little frame storehouse at 1307 Eighth Avenue, South.

A building committee of five men was appointed—E. H. Stockman and R. M. Goodrich from Humphrey Street, and J. A. Graham, John Gwinner, and J. S. Shannon from South Street. The cornerstone was laid April 3, 1910, and the first service was held in the basement July 3, 1910. The first service in the sanctuary was held May 21, 1911.

Mr. John Gwinner, who had been Sunday school superintendent at South Street, was the first Sunday school superintendent of South End. In October, 1910, Dr. W. J. O'Callaghan was appointed superintendent and he served in that office almost twenty-five years.

Very early in the history of South End, Mrs. W. A. Binns became pianist and choir director, which position she held until 1940.

A Home Mission Society was organized with Miss Maggie Sue Chesnutt as president, and a Foreign Missionary Society was organized with Mrs. Mary Rust as president. In 1911, when the women's work was all combined into one society, Mrs. Ella Smith was elected president and she served in that capacity for seventeen years.

During the ministry of the second pastor, Rev. John W. Pearson (1913-17), two revivals, one conducted by Dr. C. F. Wimberly in 1914 and one by the Rev. Joe Haynes in 1915, marked a high point in the spiritual life of the church. Many valuable members were received.

During Dr. Wimberly's preaching, he discouraged and condemned the many schemes churches were using to raise money. South End unanimously accepted his convictions and agreed henceforth to raise money by offerings only. They adhered to this plan until 1933.

In the fall of 1920, Dr. O'Callaghan inaugurated a campaign to pay the remaining indebtedness on the church, about \$1,200.00, during the year. The mortgage was burned on a silver platter on Christmas morning.

Rev. D. T. Reed served as pastor only ten months, resigning to do Y.M.C.A. work in the army camps. Dr. J. W. Shackford filled the pulpit during the remainder of that year.

Rev. E. W. Brown was pastor for three years (1918-21). In 1919 he nominated as stewards Mrs. Ella Smith and Miss Bess Hughes, who were the first women in the Nashville District to serve as stewards.

Dr. T. A. Kerley was pastor for nine years (1921-30), Rev. E. R. McCord served three years (1930-33), and Rev. C. C. Hinkle was pastor for one year.

Rev. S. R. Bratcher served for five years (1934-39). During his pastorate, the Kerley Educational Building was erected. Ground was

broken April 19, 1936, and the building was opened October 4, 1936. The building was financed largely by a building fund that had been accumulated over a period of several years by setting aside the first Sunday offerings of the church school.

Rev. Priestley Miller served as pastor for seven years (1939-46). He promoted the purchase of a Hammond electric organ and the purchase of a parsonage at 628 Benton Avenue.

Rev. J. B. Spurlock served four years (1946-50), Rev. E. S. Weakley served three years (1950-53), and the present pastor is Rev. Thomas H. Chappell.

The achievements of South End in Christian Service are exceptional and reflect the consecrated leadership of its pastors as well as the co-operative spirit of its 650 members and 350 enrolled in Sunday school.

MISS BESS HUGHES, *Historian*

POMONA

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Pomona Church building was built about 1885. It was built by early settlers as a memorial to some of the members which belonged to the Benedict family, and was served by Mission Board of Congregation Church.

During the first world war there was no regular minister as the people who lived in this community were not strong on any denomination.

About the year of 1918, Rev. Robert Hall seeing Pomona as a neglected church, suggested to the last living trustee, who was ninety years old, that the Methodists could serve the community in a better way. The transfer took place in 1919 with one dollar being given to the congregation movement for the purchase of Pomona Church.

The Methodist Church started operation in 1919 with twenty-seven members, five of whom are still living. By 1921 the membership had grown to 108 members.

Rev. Willard Blue was the minister at Crossville and also served Pomona, and the congregation grew until present addition was needed, this was about 1922. Pomona Church has continued to grow and now has 181 members and is one of the most active rural churches in Cumberland County. They have Sunday school rooms and gas heat and are planning on a new sandstone church. There is a six-room parsonage with modern conveniences near completion which will cost about \$10,000 dollars.

G. C. SELF, *Pastor*

CARTER'S CHAPEL

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Carter's Chapel Methodist Church dates back to 1885. It was named for one of its early pastors, the Rev. Joe Carter. This church is located in De Kalb County between Silver Point and Center Hill Dam. The interior of this church is very interesting because of the hand-dressed lumber used, its unusual pulpit, and its old fashioned mourner's bench arrangement.

B. M. HARNES, *Pastor*

SHILOH

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

In 1885 Shiloh Methodist Church South was organized in the Wheel community in Bedford County. At time of organization there were twenty-five members. In 1899, almost across the road from the Shiloh Church Ligetts Chapel, a Northern Methodist Church, was built.

In 1943 the Shiloh Church burned and soon after Ligetts Chapel was torn down and on that spot the present Shiloh Church was built at the cost of \$3,300. At present there are 154 members. Clura Reeder and Wesley Holden are the two ministers which have come from the Shiloh Church.

CHARLES THAXTON, *Pastor*

FLAT CREEK

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The Flat Creek Methodist Church was organized, and the church built, in the year 1885, through the efforts of Dr. M. A. L. Enochs and his father, Uncle David Enochs. These two gentlemen deeded the land for the church.

The Methodists had been worshipping in another church with another congregation when through the efforts of these two men money was collected from the few Methodists in the community to build a one room building.

In April, 1920, this church was blown down. By 1921 there was a new church in its place. The Baptists offered their church, and the Methodists worshiped there while the new church was being built. The Rev. Gilbert was the pastor and worked long and hard to get funds to finish the building. The membership at this time was near twenty-five.

In the fall of 1953, the house was rebuilt adding three Sunday

school rooms. Now we have an enrollment of 106 members in Sunday school and fifty members in our church.

A Mr. Carter entered the ministry.

CHARLES THAXTON, *Pastor*

TRAVISVILLE

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Travisville Methodist Church is located two miles north of highway 28 in Pickett County. The church was organized and building erected in 1885. In its early history it experienced the mighty power of God. During a revival the services came to a stalemate. It seemed that nothing could be done to create interest. Someone suggested that they send for Brother Ruben Hiram, who was a very devout man, spent much time on his knees in prayer and who was held in high regard. In due time he responded to their invitation and entered heartily into the revival. The revival fires were rekindled, people attended from far and near walking through snow, sleet and rain. The power of God was manifest on every side with shouting, singing and conversions. That happened a long time ago, but it is remembered today by the older people. The church has a membership of 115.

W. C. MASSENGALE, *Pastor*

CRAFT MEMORIAL

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

On October 10, 1885 the Annual Conference met at the First Methodist Church and decided to organize a mission church for the convenience of the people living in the railroad section of the city, with the help of the conference and members of the First Church.

This building was located on Galloway St. Although since 1880 Sunday school had been held there in the afternoon. It was organized with twelve charter members and was known as the South Columbia Methodist Church.

As the membership grew it became a station. But when the railroad yards were moved so many members were lost that it was put back as a mission.

Mr. George R. Craft willed to the church a sum of money. This money was voted to be used in the erection of a new church building.

In the fall of 1940 a house and lot on the corner of S. High and

Thirteenth Streets was bought for the sum of \$2,250.00. Work was begun immediately on building a new church. The old church was torn down and materials from it were used in the new building. The building was completed and ready for services the following year. While this work was being done services were held in the Frierson Memorial Presbyterian Church on South Main Street.

The name of the new church was to be Craft Memorial Methodist Church in memory of the late George R. Craft. On May 20, 1945, Bishop Paul B. Kern dedicated the church.

The Rev. M. K. Harwell was pastor during the building and first pastor of the new church. However, Rev. W. H. Williams conducted the first service in the new church. The pastors succeeding Rev. Harwell are Rev. Bunn, Rev. Dixon, Rev. Tucker and our present pastor, Rev. Richard Roe.

Additions to the church include the parsonage built in 1947, and Sunday school rooms to the rear of the auditorium in 1949. During the past year the auditorium has been redecorated and new carpet laid. A study for the pastor has been built and several other improvements made.

The Sunday school has grown, the church membership has increased to a total of 337. The W.S.C.S. is active in their work; the M.Y.F. also plays an important part in the church. Through the help of these active organizations and our past pastors and present pastor Rev. Roe our church has and is still progressing. And we hope with our faith, prayers and love for our church that we will continue to progress.

RICHARD ROE, *Pastor*

DELROSE

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The original Delrose Methodist Church was constructed in 1885. It was a large two story frame building. The lower floor was used for church purposes and the upper story was used for public school purposes. The building was destroyed by fire in October 1915. We suppose the church was organized just prior to the erection of this building—1885. The following churches composed the early Delrose pastoral charge: Bee Springs, Shiloh, and Delrose.

The present brick structure was erected in 1916. Dr. W. B. Taylor delivered the dedicatory sermon in October 1916.

The following were among the early pastors of this church: Duncan, Callier, Bolden, Bruce Lyle, Lem Long, Rush Goodloe, John Durrett, J. B. Cheek, S. L. Fain, and John Gibson. The follow-



Delrose

ing served the church in late years: C. B. Cook, E. B. Willis, Marshall Lovell, Eugene Lovell, A. R. Gibbons, W. C. Folk. Rev. Ezell Harrison, Jr., is our pastor.

MRS. D. L. JEAN, *Historian*

IRON CITY

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The Iron City Methodist Church was organized about 1885. The following were chiefly responsible for the new church—J. C. L. Newman, J. H. McKey who was an attorney, a Mr. Ogborn and a Mr. Echols. At the beginning of the movement church services were held in the home of Mr. Ogborn and in a vacant store building. The first church building was erected in the early 1890's. This frame building was replaced by a modern brick building with five Sunday school rooms about 1922.

While it was a Methodist church, all denominations were free to use it until they were able to erect their own church plants. The membership is now 70.

MRS. LILLIE B. CANNON (*Secretary since 1904*)

TENNESSEE CITY

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The first Methodist Church near Tennessee City was built on Garner's Creek about 1886, on the old Bold Springs Circuit. It was an old log building. The logs were hewed out and put up by John McElhiney, Ned Fulks, a fellow named Turner and others of the community. The building was first used for both church and school. The church was named Jason Chapel, in honor of the first preacher, Jason Brooks. Clack Balthrop was the second preacher. They were called Circuit Riders in those days.

Sometime later this building burned. The date is unknown, but I have in my possession an old land deed, dated August 26, 1893, for one and one eighth acres of land, on which to build a new church, in the same place where the old one burned. Until this time there had never been a deed to the land, which was bought from W. M. Miller for \$5.62, by Ed Moore, B. S. McElhiney and A. M. Gunn. A new church was then built, which was used until the school was built at Tennessee City. Later a law was passed, showing that the two schools were too close together. The church was then torn down and moved farther down on Garners Creek and is now being used by the Nazarenes.

The new church was built at Tennessee City in 1903, which we still have and of which we are very proud. There were only a few Methodists left of the old Methodist church on Garners Creek, so they moved their membership to Tennessee City Methodist Church. The oldest living member who still attends is Mr. Scott McElhiney. He is eighty-eight years old. He also helped to build the second Jason Chapel Church after the first one burned.

For several years the Tennessee City Methodist Church has been on the McEwen Circuit. There are now one hundred members, with great attendance at both Sunday school and church. Three church school rooms are being added to accommodate the classes. Present officials and teachers are: Robert Wright, Valton Wilson, Virgil Shaver, Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Ewing, Mrs. Work, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Ellis, and Mrs. Wright. Present pastor is Ralph R. Langston.

We are looking forward to a bright future and paying tribute to a glorious past.

J. V. WILSON, *Historian*

DENTON'S CHAPEL

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

During the summer of 1885 there was a revival held under an old saw-mill shed on the property of Mr. Jacob Mayo, at Dry Fork,

Tennessee. This revival was held by Rev. E. K. Denton, a young minister, assisted by several others. Bishop McTeire was present several times and baptized a number of children. This great revival lasted several weeks—Denton's Chapel Church was built the following year. Ninety-six members were taken into the church during the next two years. There was not a Methodist church on Paradise Ridge, a neighboring community, and a number of the members came from there. Rev. E. K. Denton was the first pastor; Mr. J. B. Carney was the first Sunday school superintendent.

A short while after Denton's Chapel was built, the Greenville Methodist Church of Paradise Ridge community was built. At that time Alex Green Church, Denton's Chapel, Greenville, and Forest Grove composed the Alex Green Charge. Some years later Love's Chapel and Beech Grove replaced Greenville and Forest Grove on the circuit. Another change was made in 1950—Alex Green and Denton's Chapel became a two-church charge, with preaching services each Sunday. Rev. Billy Craighead was the first pastor of this charge.

Until 1947 Denton's was a one-room church. During that year (Rev. J. W. Kelly, pastor) three Sunday school rooms were added.

The present membership is sixty-nine.

J. KENNETH WILKERSON, *Pastor*

GREENBRIER

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

The Greenbrier Methodist Church, located on Church Street, was organized August 2, 1886, sixty-nine years ago. The country was recovering from a devastating drought. The organization was conducted by Rev. H. S. McBride who died in 1907. He was assisted in the organization by Rev. J. W. Hill who died in 1889. Among the charter members were Mrs. Susan Hinkle, grandmother of the late Rev. D. E. Hinkle, and Samuel Cromwell, grandfather of C. G. Phelps. The late Parks Swift gave a great deal of lumber for the first building which is still in use for the sanctuary.

The building has undergone several changes and remodeling since its erection. The first remodeling took place during the pastorate of Rev. W. T. S. Cook in 1901-05. During the pastorate of Rev. G. D. McReynolds in 1924, Sunday school rooms were erected, new pews and new heating system were installed. In 1948, when Rev. H. H. Bixler was pastor, the modern educational unit was erected which included a recreational hall and kitchen. At the same time a choir loft was erected largely through the efforts and gift of Mrs. Julia

Waters Gregory. A large gift was made in 1950 by Miss Ruth Anderson on the installation of a Hammond chapel organ. It was dedicated to the memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Anderson. With these remodelings, additions and installations we have a beautiful, serviceable and commodious church building with a growing membership.

A home for the pastor has not been neglected. During the pastorate of Rev. Thomas S. Cullom, 1888-89, who was a Methodist preacher for fifty-four years, a parsonage was built just north of the Church of Christ. In 1938, during the pastorate of Rev. J. E. Thomas, the old parsonage was supplanted by a new modern brick parsonage erected south of the Church of Christ.

On account of being near the "border line" it has been difficult for Greenbrier Methodist Church to have a permanent relationship. In 1902, it was placed on a circuit with Baker's Station below the ridge. In 1905, it was changed from the East Nashville District to the Clarksville District. In 1910, it was placed in the Gallatin District. In 1923, it was changed back to the Clarksville District. During Rev. J. T. Cotton's second pastorate, 1926-30, it was placed again in the Gallatin District. In 1932, during the pastorate of Rev. E. U. Robinson it was placed in the Cumberland District where it has remained until the present time.

The following pastors have served this historic church: H. S. McBride, S. W. Bransford, Thomas S. Cullom, J. W. Rooker, J. G. Rice, J. J. Pitts, J. C. Meyers, R. J. Crump, T. R. Clendenin, W. T. S. Cook, J. S. Henley, J. T. Cotton, J. D. Hewgley, J. F. Baggett, D. B. Coleman, W. M. Martin, W. F. Powers, J. W. Faires, J. W. Estes, J. B. Cheek, W. L. Armstrong, R. B. Langston, J. A. Allison, E. L. Knowles, G. D. McReynolds, J. T. Cotton (second pastorate), E. U. Robinson, F. G. Dickson, J. E. Thomas, Charles Parker, O. H. Lane, and H. H. Bixler.

ROY T. SUBLETTE, *Pastor*

BEECH GROVE

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

This church which belongs to the Bell Springs Circuit in Coffee County was organized in 1887. Rev. David S. Thompson was the first pastor. Mr. B. P. Norton donated the building lot. Following were some of the older members: Mr. and Mrs. Will Jacobs, Mr. Cleve Jacobs, Mr. William Green, Mrs. Mattie Ashley. All are now deceased. Mrs. Cleve Jacobs and Mrs. William Green are our older members.

The congregation was never large and today has only thirty-four

members with about half of these active. The Sunday school has an enrollment of thirty. We pay our pastor \$450.00, and our part of the Conference and General apportionments. There are four churches on the pastoral charge.

CARL G. FELKER, *Pastor*

CANEY SPRINGS

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The Caney Springs Methodist Church was organized on Christmas Day, 1887. Some of the charter members and some of the funds spent on the church came as a result of the dissolving of the membership and selling of the property of Allen's Chapel church which was located one mile south of the present location. Additional funds were received from public donations and other members joined making a total of about one hundred at organization. This church was originally on the Chapel Hill Charge along with Macedonia and has been changed several times. It is now on the Berlin Charge. The church's location being on high ground has caused it to be used on several occasions in time of flood. The Rev. Nick Allen from this conference was one of our members.

MR. & MRS. J. H. WILSON, *Historians*

SPRINGS CHAPEL

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The First Springs Chapel Methodist Church Building of Roslin, Fentress County, Tennessee, was erected in 1887, and reorganized as a Springs Chapel, Methodist Episcopal Church with Rev. Charles Witt, preacher in charge. This building was erected one-fourth mile northeast of Springs Chapel Cemetery.

The church had been formed prior to above date at a place known as the "Ramsey Chapel," composed mainly by the following group of people and their families: Luke Hall, Samuel Ramsey, Francis M. Atkinson, Charles Atkinson, Louis Atkinson, Pete Atkinson, Joel Atkinson, Robert Ramsey, Wesley Atkinson, and Jasper Atkinson. The Ramsey Chapel was located approximately two miles northeast of the Springs Chapel Cemetery.

In 1932, the present building was erected a few yards south of the Springs Chapel Cemetery. In 1951, during the pastorate of Rev. W. C. Massengale, four classrooms were added to the building.

Nine who have entered the ministry from this church are as follows: Francis M. Atkinson, Charles Atkinson, Pete Atkinson, C. M.

Hall, Crede Huddleston, John Atkinson, George Atkinson, James Atkinson, and Joel Beaty.

Our church was without a regular pastor for a period, chiefly due to financial circumstances. Rev. C. M. Hall, local minister, and others held services at intervals during this period.

At present there are approximately eighty-eight members.

RUBY ATKINSON, *Historian*

ETHRIDGE

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The earliest record of the Methodist Church, South, at Ethridge begins in 1887. Samuel L. Fain was Presiding Elder and Thomas H. Woodward was pastor of the church. He was followed by J. W. Cherry, 1888-90.

The first building was the little white frame house that stood at the north edge of our village, just west of the railroad, until 1950. It was built in 1891 under the leadership of the Rev. Jas. F. Tinnon who was the pastor then, and who did much of the actual construction work himself. There were five members of the congregation who assumed most of the responsibility of erecting this building; namely, Mr. Pinckney Wright, Mr. Isaac Brian, Mr. D. M. Foster, Mr. Lon Blair, and Mr. Jim Nance, who made the altar rail and lectern which were placed in our present building. All are deceased, but descendants of Mr. Brian and Mr. Foster have been officials and workers in our church throughout the years.

Mr. J. E. Cunningham, a son-in-law of Mr. Foster, was Sunday school superintendent for thirty-two years. I. M. Brian, son of Isaac Brian, is trustee and assistant superintendent at present.

This first building was dedicated the second Sunday in May, 1892. The dedication sermon was preached by Dr. Robert A. Young. It was on a circuit with Lawrenceburg and Pleasant Grove. In later years it was with Barnesville, Summertown, Howard's Chapel, Park Grove, and Henryville. It was made a station during the pastorate of Rev. Ernest Blessing in 1941.

Pastors serving during the years were: Rev. W. B. Patty, John P. Funk, G. W. Blanton, J. N. Jones, J. T. Redmond, Lawrence Hosale, Thos. Kellum, J. R. Simpson, T. B. Gilliam, W. J. Wilson, O. L. Green, W. C. Charles, J. E. Eddings, R. D. Angel, W. F. Powers who died in 1925 and J. Frank Swiney filled out his year, J. R. Stephens, Joe C. Sharp, W. A. Bass, R. D. Davis, Ernest Blessing who served a total of nine years, J. F. Bell, W. C. Morehead, G. M. Davenport, and J. T. Majors at present. Our present membership is 325, and the original membership in 1892 was seventy-two.

The W.S.C.S. has been active since 1916, contributing \$1,215.50 to present building fund. The young people have been active through the years. The Methodist Youth Fellowship contributed \$1,019.42 toward our present building.

Our present church building fund was begun in 1943, but due to World War II and lack of materials, the building was not started until 1949. We are grateful to the Building Committee composed of H. B. Cunningham, J. M. Robertson, and I. M. Brian, for accomplishing so much with so little money. The cost of the building was \$16,024.54—now valued at \$25,000.00. The lot was donated by the Cunningham family.

Our first service was May 14, 1950. The Dedication Service was conducted March 28, 1954, by Bishop Roy Short and Rev. H. H. Austin, District Superintendent.

Present trustees are: A. G. Gibson, I. M. Brian, John Martin, H. B. Cunningham, J. H. Robertson, L. L. Long, Van Jones, C. R. Dickey, and F. C. Burdick.

MRS. R. M. BENSON, *Historian*

BUFFALO

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The Buffalo Methodist Church at Buffalo, Tennessee, was built on land deeded to the church by W. D. and M. E. King and recorded on May 4, 1887. Mr. King specified in the deed that the building shall be held and kept as a place of worship and shall be used by no other denomination and when it ceases to be a Methodist church, the building is to be removed and the land revert back to the King heirs.

The architect was Mr. Aughey who came from the north and we still have the partition through the center. At the time the church was built it was a custom for the ladies to sit on the left and the men on the right side of the house. However, we do not observe that custom any more.

Rev. Becker was the pastor for the first four years in the new church. The dedicatory service was in July of 1887, and Rev. Hershel B. Reems was the speaker. He was a former pastor of the old log church that the present building replaced.

NELLE REESE,

MRS. VADA DUNCAN,

MRS. JEWELL STEWARD, *Committee*

EDGEWOOD

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Edgewood Methodist Church was organized in 1888—names and number of members not available. However, the membership grew

to a total of 147 in 1912, less than one-half that total at present—thirty-three. Original and present location is the same, Edgewood, fifteen miles northwest of Dickson, Tennessee, on Yellow Creek Road. Ministers, teachers and doctors have gone out from this church and many good laymen and women. Sixty-five ministers and forty presiding elders have served this church and circuit since 1832—maybe others, records incomplete. Space does not permit names and tenure of service of each even though records are incomplete.

RITA M. BISHOP, *Historian*

LANCASTER

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

The original Methodist church in the Lancaster community was organized about the year 1888. The property was near the Hoggard Bluff school. In 1898 Johnny Moss gave some property in Lancaster to form a Union church. The building was dedicated about 1900. Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians all worshiped here for many years. The Methodist Church finally became the sole possessors of the property which was later sold to Mr. C. L. Reynolds. The funds from this property were used in the construction of the present church which was dedicated in 1953.

The following are members of the Official Board: Edward Lancaster, Toy Rose, Mrs. Edgar Robinson, Mrs. Edward Lancaster, W. D. Petty, Jerry Rose, Mrs. Jim Lancaster, Mrs. Payte Cowan, Hilda Carter.

GERALD MUSTARD, *Pastor*

BEREA

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

On April 15, 1887, B. F. Moore donated a plot of land to the Methodist Conference on which to build a church at Redell (now Berea).

On October 18, 1888 the Fourth Quarterly conference of the Diana circuit appointed a committee composed of Stephen Anderson, James and Robert Moore to solicit funds to build the church.

On November 22, 1888, the REDELL NEWS in the *Pulaski Citizen* stated that they were building a large, handsome church. Sidney Gillam drove an ox team to haul logs to the Scoggins saw mill to saw lumber for the building.

During that time they were holding services in the Portress school house located about one mile east of the present location.

On August 15, 1888, at a meeting conducted by Rev. H. O. Moore, John Wise Bledsoe was received into the church by baptism, becoming a member at Simpson Chapel and transferring to Redell (now Berea) on October 2, 1889. Brother Bledsoe is the only charter member now living.

The first sermon preached in the new church was about August first 1889 by Rev. H. O. Moore and the second was the following Sunday—the funeral of Harvey Hix.

The church was dedicated October 2, 1889 with Rev. H. O. Moore, pastor. About that time Mrs. Wiley Chapman suggested the name "Berea" for the church which was approved.

There were associated with the organization of the church the families of B. F. James, Morris and Robert Moore, Porter and Stephen Anderson, George and Robert Foster, James A. and Sidney Grubbs, Benjamin and James Scoggins, McFerrin and Lee Portress, W. E. Childers, A. B. Parsons, Fred Bledsoe, T. B. Hastings, Adolphus Ezell, Sidney Gillam, Joseph Samuel, Joseph Tinnon, Eph Worsham, James Hogue, Wesley Ingram, James Holbert, the Pedens, Mrs. Courtney Eslick and many more of the pioneer families. Estimated membership, seventy-five to a hundred.

The building has not been damaged by fire or cyclone but has been flooded on several occasions with water from Pigeon Roost creek, notably during the March flood of 1902. We have no record of any serious misunderstandings among the membership.

Rev. Wm. Ezell and Rev. O. E. Hall have gone from the church into the ministry.

Through the past 65 years the church has stood as a symbol of good, a reminder of the grace of God, as a shining light in a sinful world. Reminding the world of the words of Jesus Christ nearly 2000 years ago that He is the light of the world, the bread of life, and that His power and goodness survives when all others fail.

Berea is now on the Olivet circuit. Rev. W. J. Fesmire is pastor. Present membership, 125.

Approved by the church December 12, 1954.

ANDY WEDDINGTON,

MRS. L. M. PORTRESS,

MISS TULLY GRUBBS, *Committee*

SUMMERTOWN

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

Before the unification of Methodism in 1939 there were two Methodist Congregations in Summertown. The Methodist Episcopal

Church owned a church building, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, held services on the second floor of Crane's store for a time and then later in the Methodist Episcopal building. Unification was a great blessing for these churches. The old church burned in 1942 and a new brick veneered building with church school accommodations was erected in 1943. Recently one acre of ground was purchased near the church for a parsonage. Funds are now being raised for this building. The following historical sketch furnished by Mrs. S. V. Dunn, a long time member of the Summertown Church, is added here:

"The old Methodist Episcopal Church was dedicated in 1889 by a minister named Stockton. He was pastor for four years, I have been told, and also taught Latin at the old Summertown Seminary, a Methodist school. No history of the Methodist church at Summertown would be complete without mentioning this school. This was a school that at one time had a number of boarding students. The bell that hung in the belfry is now at Baxter Seminary, where it was taken when the school was discontinued. The Rev. U. G. Paschal was pastor from 1902 for some years and also Principal of the Seminary. The Seminary was discontinued in 1908 or 1909. The Presbyterians also used our church building for a time."

The present official board is as follows: W. M. Cook, retired, supplying the charge, Ross Dunn, church school superintendent, Coyle Walker, Mrs. Carl Holloway, Mrs. Clyde Barnette, Mrs. W. F. Chumley, Mrs. Jim Horn, Henry Walker, S. V. Dunn, Mrs. Alfred Prosser, Mrs. Margaret Baugus, Alfred Prosser, Seth Springer, and Buford McDonald, Billy E. Dunn.

W. M. COOK, *Pastor*

BUCHANAN STREET

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

The Buchanan Street Methodist Church, located at 12th Avenue, North, and Buchanan Street, was formerly the McTyeire Memorial Methodist Church, which grew from a mission organized in 1889 by Mrs. Edward H. East, a teacher of a young men's class at the McKendree Methodist Church. This mother church sponsored the mission, under the leadership of Mrs. East, which soon grew into a one-room church located on the southeast corner of James (now 17th Avenue, North) and Heiman Streets in North Nashville. Mrs. East named the new church in honor of her grandfather, Bishop Holland N. McTyeire.

The first pastor of the McTyeire Memorial Church, Rev. R. R. Jones, reported to the Annual Conference in 1889 a total of 118

members. The second year, 1890, McTyeire joined hands with the North High Street Mission (now Monroe Street Methodist Church) and had as its pastor Rev. Thomas J. Duncan. The mission church continued through the years of 1891 and 1892 and was led by Rev. M. S. Gardner, who reported 167 members at the Annual Conference. It was at this Conference that McTyeire was given full church connection and Rev. W. M. Green was sent to us as pastor. This church continued in full connection until 1906, at which time it reverted to a mission.

The congregation sold this property in 1910 and purchased a site on the corner of Florence (now 12th Avenue, North) and Buchanan Streets and erected a temporary structure, and was named Buchanan Street Methodist Church. Rev. R. W. Seay was first pastor. Default of payment brought the McTyeire property back to the congregation, and the members moved the building to the new site of Buchanan Church.

The new church prospered in members and in spiritual power during the years. The influence for good spread far and wide.

On Wednesday evening, February 29, 1938, the frame building burned and was replaced soon by a modern brick structure which still stands.

The church today enjoys a splendid membership and many loyal friends. Only a handful of the former members of McTyeire Memorial Church have their names on the roll of the church. They are: Mrs. W. T. Shockley, Mrs. Anna Ramsey Wild, Mr. Charles E. Craddock, and Mrs. Willie B. Nicholson.

Its membership continues to grow in grace and in numbers. It has never failed paying its Conference apportionments. It is known as the "Friendly Church on the Corner."

PICKENS JOHNSON, *Pastor*

MT. UNION

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

In 1889 Mrs. Nancy Brooks gave the land for a Methodist church. The church was organized and the building was erected soon thereafter. It is located near the head of Wolf River in Fentress County. It was organized as Mount Union but it is better known locally as "the Wolf River Methodist Church." The lumber was hauled from the mill with oxen and was dressed by hand. It was built well and is a good building today. It was dedicated by the Presiding Elder, Brother Ruble. It was a former Methodist Episcopal church.

W. C. MASSENGALE, *Pastor*

GAINESBORO

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Gainesboro Methodist Church was organized in 1889 under W. H. Baird, pastor, and Rev. J. J. Ransom, Presiding Elder, with eight members. It was one of eight churches on the Gainesboro-Granville Circuit. There was no church building and the regular services once a month were held in the old Christian Church for four years. During this time revivals were held and other members were added to the membership. More people were moving into Gainesboro, among them several Presbyterians. Gainesboro had only two churches—Methodist and Christian—and the Presbyterians attended the Methodist services. In a short time a union Sunday school was organized which met in the courthouse.

In 1893 Rev. J. L. Smotherman was sent to Gainesboro as a pastor. He saw the possibilities for the Methodist Church and, being encouraged by the cooperation of the Presbyterians, began a campaign to build a place for worship. A lot was given south of the courthouse one block from the square. Work was started in a short time and the house was completed in 1894. Rev. Smotherman was an enthusiastic worker and inspired the membership in the work. The church prospered and many members were added during the years.

In 1922 the church building was found to be inadequate for the needs. The Sunday school had seven classes, the young people were many and the one-room church could no longer meet their needs. The pastor, Rev. K. A. Early, with interested members, began an intensive drive to get a new and larger church to meet the needs. A lot was purchased across the street from the old one. The congregation owned a parsonage. This was sold, as also the church was sold for a business house. The lot bought had a four-room cottage that was fine for a parsonage.

On July 4, 1923, the ground was broken for the new building by Rev. E. P. Anderson, Presiding Elder. Work was immediately begun. Much of the work was done by members; material such as logs for lumber was donated; members who owned teams hauled the logs to the mill; the pastor had a brick kiln at the river where the brick for the inside walls were burned. In fact, most members found something they could do as well as give of their means. The cornerstone was laid in September, 1923. The building, consisting of the sanctuary, seven Sunday school rooms, pastor's study, a full-sized basement, equipped with a kitchen and a large recreation hall, was ready to move into in 1924. During these years the church had remained on the Gainesboro-Granville Circuit. In 1946 the church became a station with a full-time pastor. Soon after this plans were

begun to build a new parsonage. This was erected on the lot just behind the old one. It was completed the next year. The parsonage has living room, dining room, four bedrooms, kitchen, bath and full-sized basement.

The church feels proud to have had three young men to enter the ministry: Rev. H. Freeman McGlasson has held pastorates in Northwest Indiana Conference for several years and is now District Superintendent in this Conference; Rev. Lowry Anderson has been preaching in the North Georgia Conference for several years; Dennis Tramel, son of Rev. E. M. Tramel, present pastor, has entered the ministry and has been granted license as a local preacher.

The Gainesboro Church membership is now 151. The church building is valued at \$75,000.00 and the parsonage at \$13,000.00.

The following are members of the official board at the present time: Cordell Clark, chairman; V. C. Berry, charge lay leader; W. C. Anderson, district steward; F. L. Tardy, Sunday school superintendent; Mrs. F. L. Tardy, communion steward; Mrs. Max Whitaker, treasurer; Mrs. Ruth Page, president of the W.S.C.S.; P. H. Anderson, Mrs. G. D. Anderson, Mrs. J. W. Draper, Mrs. S. C. Hughes, W. C. Naff, Roger Quarles, Earl Tardy, Max Whitaker, Mrs. Ruth Wooten, Mrs. Meadows Montgomery, Mrs. W. G. Quarles.

E. M. TRAMEL, *Pastor*

ST. BETHLEHEM

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Reams' Chapel, now St. Bethlehem Methodist Church, originated from a Sunday school established by some students from Southwestern Presbyterian University in Clarksville. A Methodist minister, Charles B. Reams, was invited to hold a revival at the schoolhouse where the Sunday school was held. About thirty people decided to organize a Methodist church, and it was named in honor of its first pastor, the Rev. Reams. White Chapel was the meeting place for some time.

Mrs. R. M. Luter provided the building site "for the consideration of \$1.00" on the location where it now stands—on the northeast corner at the intersection of the Rossview Road and the old Russellville turnpike. The deed to this property was signed on July 18, 1889, and conveyed same to Rev. Charles B. Reams, Alex G. Warfield, George W. Warfield, Fletcher E. Beaumont and B. W. ——— (name illegible, but possibly Macrae), trustees.

This small group of stout-hearted people soon had their church under way, and at a cost of approximately \$2,500.00 the building

was ready to move into the following year. There are many interesting stories about the activities of this group and of the various ways and means used to pay for and decorate the church and grounds. The stories have a special meaning for those of us who grew up in and love St. Bethlehem Church. One in particular that I like best is: "The charter members gathered on the church lawn and each planted a maple tree, fully expecting that at least some of them would not grow. But every tree took root and thrived, and finally the shade was so dense and the limbs had overlapped until half of the trees had to be taken out." Somehow, to me at least, the life and beauty of those trees was a symbol of the life and steadfastness of those who planted them.

Somewhere, down through the years, the name of Reams' Chapel was replaced by St. Bethlehem Methodist Church—whether officially changed or not, so it goes today.

In 1937 a coal furnace was installed and during 1943-44 three large Sunday school rooms were added to the building, and by a little remodeling the vestibule and storage space were made into two classrooms and an entrance hall.

Sunday, March 3, 1946, was a fateful day for this church. Shortly after the morning services were over the church and parsonage were



St. Bethlehem

destroyed by fire. Rev. J. E. Thomas, the pastor, was holding services at Corinth when the fire occurred. The first parsonage was burned in 1933 during the ministry of Rev. O. E. Hall, and a new one had been built. Before the sun had set on March 3, 1946, plans were being made by the board of trustees for the rebuilding, and more than \$2,000.00 had been subscribed. Among those who went to work that day on plans for rebuilding were Alex Wootton, Sr., C. C. Page, G. R. Wallace, H. R. Cole, Charles Warfield, H. C. Wilee, Frank Woodard, and others. It is due to their untiring efforts that we were able to accomplish the seemingly impossible.

The new brick building was constructed at a cost of approximately \$40,000. Rev. Philip M. Ritter had come to be our pastor when we moved into the new building. Services had been held during those months first in the schoolhouse and later we used the new parsonage after the death of Rev. Thomas. Rev. Frank Hawkins filled the pulpit for some months while living in his home in New Providence.

For some time the church was not equipped with pews or altar. We used chairs. On Palm Sunday, April 10, 1949, Rev. Ritter dedicated the pews, altar rail and choir screen, communion table and two companion tables, all made of solid walnut from trees contributed by the men of the church. At the same time a pulpit Bible, given in memory of Charles P. and Mary Rice Warfield by their daughter, Elizabeth W. Ely, and a brass communion cross and candlesticks, given in memory of Fletcher E. and Fannie E. Beaumont by their children, were dedicated.

A few weeks later a walnut pulpit was given by Mrs. Alex Wootton, Sr., in honor of her husband who had done so much as chairman of the building committee. Also, an electric organ was given in memory of Howell E. Gholson by his wife.

On Sunday, June 15, 1953, the District Superintendent, Rev. H. T. Tipps, assisted by Rev. Ritter and the host pastor, Rev. Frank C. Ferguson, dedicated the building. It was a day long anticipated—lunch was served on the lawn at noon, and in the afternoon an impressive Communion service was held to close the program. Trustees taking part were H. C. Wilee, C. C. Page, and A. P. Wootton, Sr.

The present pastor is the Rev. George W. Baxter, and the membership is 365.

KITTY BEAUMONT BOURNE, *Historian*

FOREST STREET

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Forest Street Methodist Church in Clarksville, Tennessee, was organized in 1889 with sixty-five charter members. A one-room building was located at the corner of Lawn and Bradley Streets,

with Rev. B. W. Dodson serving as its first pastor. During the pastorate of Rev. J. S. Rice, Mr. R. E. McCulloch, Sunday school superintendent, gave a lot on the corner of Church and Forest Streets. On this lot a building was erected. The congregation moved into this in April, 1897, at which time the building was dedicated as Forest Street Methodist Church. The first trustees were E. Emmons, Thomas E. Edge, John H. Westenberger and J. W. Stinchfield. The only living charter member of the original church is Mrs. L. C. Westenberger.

From a membership of sixty-five the church has grown to a membership of 317. The building now consists of a sanctuary, pastor's study, classrooms for all ages, a dining room and kitchen in the basement, where members meet for fellowship and recreation.

During the pastorate of Rev. Grady Wall, in 1926, the basement was excavated and classrooms provided for the church school. In 1939 the church became a station, with Rev. Carl Smith as its pastor. In 1942, while Rev. Joe Forbes was pastor, Mrs. John Lyddy gave a lot on Shelton Street and a parsonage was built.

The present church annex was completed in 1952 under the leadership of Rev. J. W. Fryer. It consists of ten classrooms, a library and pastor's study. Some of these rooms serve double duty as chapel, dining room, library and assembly rooms. The building is now filled to capacity.

Three young men, Rev. Wilford Westenberger, Rev. Luke Fuqua and Rev. Wesley Wilder, are now serving in the ministry. Their wives—Mrs. Westenberger, the former Miss Mildred Estes; Mrs. Fuqua, the former Miss Dorothy Ellis; and Mrs. Wilder, the former Miss Mildred Speight—were all members of Forest Street.

Miss Sallie Ellis, retired, served many years as home mission worker in Biloxi, Mississippi. Mr. Clay Sledge, the former Miss Henrietta Lyddy, served one year as home mission worker in Beaumont, Texas, before her marriage to Rev. Clay, now of Louisville, Kentucky.

The church is still growing and making progress.

ROY C. MOORE, *Pastor*

EAST END

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

East End Methodist Church was organized in the home of Mrs. Carrie C. Binkley, 1211 Magnolia Street (Boscobel), November 10, 1889. There were sixteen charter members. The first church building was erected at 1100 Fatherland Street in 1890. It was a frame building and a mission of Tulip Street Methodist Church. Thirty

members were reported at the first Annual Conference. The church was finally moved to Thirteenth and Holly Streets, October 15, 1907. The covered basement was occupied for all church purposes for nearly three years. The cornerstone was laid October 27, 1907, and the auditorium was completed in 1910. The Sunday school addition was erected in 1921 during the pastorate of Rev. A. J. Morgan. Mr. C. H. Yarbrough was superintendent of the Sunday school. The parsonage at 1212 Holly Street was built in 1923 during the first year of the pastorate of Dr. E. P. Anderson.

The first revival of religion was conducted in East End by blind Joe Ramsey of Viola, Tennessee, June 5, 1910. It was a great revival. One hundred seventeen were converted at the altar and of this number ninety-five united with East End. The Tennessee Annual Conference was entertained in this church October 17-21, 1934. Bishop U. V. W. Darlington was president, Rev. W. H. Blue was secretary and Rev. John F. Baggett was pastor in his fourth year.

The sixtieth anniversary of East End was celebrated in 1949 in a truly great home-coming service. It was in the third year of the pastorate of Rev. B. B. Pennington.

From the beginning of its history, East End has been missionary in spirit and practice. William Crutchfield went from this church as a missionary to Colombo, Ceylon. James A. Pigue, John Nan Ness and Ben Franklin Binkley entered the ministry from this church. The official board unanimously approved the organization of Kern Memorial Methodist Church, one mile away. Many of its former members are leaders and workers in other churches of the city and elsewhere. Sponsor of oldest Scout troop in the city of Nashville.

East End has had twenty-seven pastors in its sixty-five years of history. Rev. J. Robert Parsons, who died September 14, 1943, is the only one to pass away while pastor. The large memorial window over the front entrance is in memory of the first pastor, Rev. W. R. Warren. Rev. T. W. Mayhew, our present pastor, has served the longest term to date.

In 1933, during the pastorate of Rev. John F. Baggett, there were 1,393 members on the roll, which was the largest enrollment in its history. In spite of the heavy drain and shift in population, the membership today is 1,107, which is a fine showing in the light of all the factors. The church school enrollment is 677. Total valuation of property is \$167,000.00.

This brief history would be incomplete without bringing Bruce Jones into the picture. You can distinguish between Bruce and East End but they cannot be separated. Bruce became janitor November 1, 1907, when the church was only eighteen years old. During his

service he sent his seven children through college. In 1949 he was honored with a banquet for his loyalty and most excellent service.

HARRY V. L. GOWER, *Historian*

HILHAM

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The first Methodist church to be built in the Hilham vicinity was at Bethel, one mile north of Hilham, about 1890, with a Rev. Tucker as pastor. Rev. M. J. Setser and family moved their membership here from the Mount Gilead Church. Others who mainly composed the church were the following people and their families: Dave Bullock, Berry Neely, Jim Myers, Will Ayers, Pleas Buck, Louisa Christian and Overton Gore.

In 1901 Bethel Methodists joined with Baptists and Cumberland Presbyterians to form a union church. W. C. Murphy and J. M. Brown gave land in East Hilham on which was built a two-story building, the upper story being used by the Odd Fellows Lodge.

About 1945, due to a decreasing number of members, the Cumberland Presbyterians gave their interests to the Methodists. A new building was then erected about 1945 on the same plot of ground.

Rev. A. R. Gibbons entered the ministry from this church.

ERNEST CASHDOLLAR, *Historian*

CARR'S CHAPEL

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Methodist church at Carr's Chapel was built about 1890. The land was given by the late Byrd Carr. Therefore, the church was called Carr's Chapel. The first church was built by Jim Carr, the son of the man who gave the land. This building was in such a bad state of repair that a new building was erected on the same site in 1940. This church is located six miles west of Baxter on Highway 56 between Baxter and Silver Point, Tennessee.

B. M. HARNESS, *Pastor*

BLUE CREEK

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

In 1896 the present Blue Creek Methodist Church in Humphreys County was built. The site for this church was given by Mr. Sam Lumsden, and the materials were furnished by other members.

Prior to 1896 the church had met for a number of years in a school building, which still stands, about fifty yards from the present building.

Mr. Verner Anderson, who is a member of Blue Creek, joined the church before it occupied the new building, and is still an active member. He has been a member of The Methodist Church since he was six years old, and has been a leader, in this church especially, and on the entire charge until his health forced him to drop his official duties a few years ago.

Today the official membership of Blue Creek is twenty-seven.

J. W. JARRELL, JR., *Pastor*

PORTER'S CHAPEL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Edward Porter gave the property to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, December 20, 1890. The following were the trustees: J. E. Qualls, A. H. Porter, G. C. Sanford, H. C. Anderson, and J. R. Hughes. It is to be supposed that the church was organized at that time. It was stipulated in the deed that the building could be used by other denominations but under the direction of the trustees. The congregation has never been large but very faithful. The membership is about fifty. It pays the pastor \$434.00 and a total of \$170.00 for apportionments and other causes.

GLEN A. MURRELL, *Pastor*

TRINITY

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Trinity Methodist Church, located on Highway 49, five miles northwest of Dover, was dedicated May, 1891. The Rev. John Handlin, pastor of Dover Charge, conducted the dedication service and served as the first pastor.

Pinkney P. Fitzhugh gave two acres of land for the church site and cemetery. He served as the first Sunday school superintendent.

The church has been rebuilt three times on the same location, being enlarged each time. The most recent improvement has been the addition of two classrooms and new pews. This was done during the period that T. H. Yeargan served as pastor, 1950-54.

Rev. Clyde Brake and Rev. James Beaty are the present pastors.

H. CLYDE BRAKE, *Pastor*

ROBERTSON'S CHAPEL

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

Robertson's Chapel was named in honor of Rev. G. W. Robertson, who was one of the early preachers in Hardin County. He was instrumental in 1890 in bringing this church into existence, which accounts for its name. The land for the church and cemetery was donated by Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Black. The following were the original trustees: J. M. Black, W. H. Hall, D. R. Hurst, G. W. Robertson and A. A. Watson. The new church was named by Miss Mollie Hurst, who was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hurst. In 1900 this church had the reputation of being one of the strongest rural churches in Hardin County. Besides the trustees, the following families of that period were very active members: Dickersons, Cromwells, Spencers, Freemans and others.

The present house of worship is the original building. Plans are under way for the erection of a new building.

JAMES T. JOHNSON, *Pastor*

WEST NASHVILLE

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

With the beginning of 1955 the West Nashville Methodist Church, as it is known today, entered its sixty-sixth year at the same location, corner of Forty-Eighth and Charlotte Avenues. During that period four additions have been made to its original physical plant. Twenty-three pastors have served the congregation, and the church has grown from forty members to 1,017.

To get its full history, however, one must go back to 1882 when a small "West Side Mission" was established on what is now Fortieth Avenue, North, then known as Clifton Pike.

In that year a lot was purchased for that small mission and the Rev. John R. Stewart was assigned to tiny "Clifton Methodist Episcopal Church, South."

In those days Rev. John R. Stewart was regular pastor of the Park Avenue Church at Twelfth and Jo Johnson Avenues, but he also served the new mission and later became regular pastor of the West Nashville Church.

In 1887-88 services were held in the Exchange Building at Forty-Fifth and Charlotte Avenues while members laid plans for a new building.

In July, 1888, the Nashville Land Improvement Company, which

developed much of West Nashville, known then as Newtown, donated the land where the present building is located. The auditorium of the building was constructed the following year for an original cost of \$7,500.00—a large amount for the forty members who entered into the venture under the leadership of Rev. G. W. Winn. Rev. Winn was the first pastor assigned to the new charge. The original building, erected through sacrifice and cooperative effort on the part of the membership, coupled with subscriptions from Methodist laymen throughout the city, featured a high tower with a bell. The tower had to be altered several years later when it fell victim to storms.

As the church grew a parsonage was constructed just east of the auditorium in 1896 with money obtained from several hundred donations. The Rev. T. C. Ragsdale was the first pastor to occupy it. This parsonage was sold in 1939 to the Masonic Lodge and a new parsonage was purchased at 4603 Park Avenue.

In 1947 a new education building was begun on the site formerly occupied by the parsonage. It was started while the Rev. Priestley Miller was the church pastor and completed the following year under the Rev. R. L. Freeman, who served the church until 1952.

The Rev. A. Faxon Small was assigned to West Nashville in 1952 and continues to serve it.

In addition to its own work, the West Nashville Church in 1901 took the lead in a program with the Board of Missions in securing the present lot used by the Sixty-First Avenue Methodist Church. For a number of years, the Sixty-First congregation was operated as a direct mission of the West Nashville Church, but it was later taken over by the Tennessee Conference as a mission. The West Nashville Church continued to hold the deed to the property until this past year, 1954, when Sixty-First Avenue became a self-sustaining congregation.

Rev. A. Faxon Small, who was assigned in 1952, is our present pastor.

MRS. HARRY C. SMITH, *Church Secretary*

BLAKEMORE

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

In April of 1890, the Methodists west of Vanderbilt University felt the need of a Methodist church, and began their organization under the guidance of H. B. Reams, Presiding Elder. A one-room meetinghouse, outgrown by West End congregation, was secured and moved to a lot on Natchez Trace at Wellington. This lot was donated by Dr. J. W. Blakemore and named for him.

The mission started with between twenty-five and thirty members. The first Annual Conference report was made in 1891. Forty-four members were reported. All assessments were paid in full, including \$25.00 for foreign missions, totaling \$162.53 for the year.

In 1906 H. S. McBride died while pastor. Paul B. Kern (later Bishop) filled the unexpired term of Brother McBride and was appointed pastor from 1907-10. Under Brother Kern's leadership the membership grew rapidly. In 1915 the congregation felt the need of a larger place to worship, and a lot was purchased at the corner of Thirtieth and West End. In 1924 in considering the question of building the congregation's vote was fifty for building, and fifty against, and the deciding vote was cast by the pastor, A. E. Clement.

The building committee was headed by B. H. Klyce, son of Rev. W. H. Klyce. During the year of 1924 the church was built at a cost of approximately \$40,000.00. This building was intended as an educational building, the sanctuary to be built later. The congregation moved into the new building in 1925 during the pastorate of O. B. Johnson.

There was quite an indebtedness on the church and, during the depression, payments on the loan seemed more than the congregation could meet. In the year of 1931 part of the corner lot was sold to help meet the payments. There was no parsonage, so the dwelling next to the church was purchased for a parsonage.

In 1932 when C. B. Cook came to Blakemore, the financial condition of the church was at low ebb. Brother Cook interviewed A. M. Burton, president of Life and Casualty Insurance Company, in the interest of getting the loan reduced in some way, and he consented to accept a certain amount of cash rather than foreclose. Under the guidance of Brother Cook, with the assistance of J. F. Rawls and the Board of Church Extension, both the parsonage and church were refinanced, enabling the church to meet the payments.

During the pastorate of W. Henry Atkins (1943-48) the parsonage on Thirtieth Avenue was sold and property purchased at Bowling and West End, including parsonage and building site. The indebtedness was liquidated during his pastorate. In 1952 during the pastorate of Charles J. Hawkins, the congregation voted to sell the present property and build a new church. In 1953 Robert S. Lee was sent to Blakemore and his previous experience in building churches, his faith and enthusiasm are of invaluable service to the present building program. As soon as the property at Thirtieth and West End is sold, the new church at Bowling and West End will be built.

MILMA P. JACKSON, *Historian*

LONE OAK

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

In 1891 Rev. A. Frank Allen, who was a local preacher, and his Presiding Elder, Rev. John A. McFerrin, organized a Methodist church in the Cedar Hill schoolhouse. There were thirteen charter members. The new church prospered and within a few months it was decided to erect a church building. John and Nancy Finch gave an acre of land for the new enterprise. The building was erected and named "Lone Oak Methodist Church" because a very large oak tree stood on the lot. The church was strengthened in 1908 when Amanda's Chapel united with the congregation.

The church was dedicated in 1910 by Rev. J. Allison Molloy, who was the Presiding Elder, and Rev. B. J. Rochelle was pastor. Mr. Green H. Sears was superintendent of the Sunday school.

In May, 1953, Russell and Eddie Street donated a lot for the second building which was more centrally located. Within five months the new house was occupied. The pastor, Rev. Joe Frazer, had the honor of delivering the first sermon October 4, 1953. While the membership was never large and only fifty-eight at the present time, the congregation feels highly honored by having furnished Rev. R. B. Rawls to the ministry, who has reached many thousands during the period of his service.

MRS. W. H. IVY, *Historian*

WAVERLY PLACE

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

In 1891 a devoted band of Christians, including J. J. Green, Mrs. Bettie G. King, Andrew Kline, William McMillan, and their families, started a Sunday school in a small house on Eleventh Avenue near Lawrence Avenue in Nashville, Tennessee.

There were about twenty members enrolled in this Sunday school, and a year later Dr. E. E. Hoss, later elected Bishop, organized this band into a church. The group was increased by Mrs. Arthur Ransom, Miss Lutie Brown, Miss Nellie Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph S. Regen and their children, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Gilmore and Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. McAlister.

By 1894 the cornerstone of the church building which preceded our present structure was laid on the present site by Bishop W. W. Duncan. In 1895 the Epworth League was organized through the efforts of Dr. Sam A. Steele. In 1896 the building was roofed and

worship conducted inside for the first time. The seats were of unfinished plank and the walls were unplastered. In 1902 the old seats were replaced with oak pews and a hardwood floor was laid. In 1904 this first church building was freed of debt and dedicated by Bishop O. P. Fitzgerald. In 1905 a reed organ and a piano were installed. In 1910 six new Sunday school rooms were added to the rear of the original building.

In 1921 a house and lot east of the church were secured and work was begun on the new religious education building. M. A. Simpson was chairman of the building committee; W. P. Regen, Sr., was contractor; R. G. Fields was superintendent of the Sunday school; and Rev. W. M. Cook was pastor. The new plant was completed and occupied in 1925.

During the pastorate of the Rev. W. H. Blue (1928-35), approximately 655 members were received into Waverly Place Methodist Church, and on April 8, 1934, a special Quarterly Conference decided to erect a new church. The first contribution to the building fund was a \$10.00 donation made by Mother Regen.

The first service in the present sanctuary was held on March 3, 1935. Following the pastorate of the Rev. W. H. Blue were Rev. Grady L. Wall and Rev. Fred C. Woodard. During the terms of these two ministers the debt of \$29,000.00 was retired. In 1939 a fine pipe organ was installed and paid for in three years.

In 1952 the Regen family gave the Waverly Place Methodist Church, in memory of Mother Regen, a beautiful painting, being a life-size replica of Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper." This painting is on the wall behind the altar and immediately back of and above the choir. The painting was presented by the artist, Hans Boese, and dedicated on November 16, 1952, by the Rev. Edward J. Rees.

During the latter part of 1954 and January and February of 1955, the church carried out a crusade to raise funds for remodeling our present educational plant and adding approximately 7,500 square feet of new construction on the south side of our present educational plant. Pledges were secured in the amount of \$60,000.00, which will enable us to start work sometime during the summer of 1955 on this \$100,000.00 project. Nick Malone and Ernest Hatcher were co-chairmen of this crusade and Rev. Grady Wall, pastor. This crusade has materially increased the Christian spirit of our church.

Pastors who have served: E. E. Hoss, G. W. Winn, J. W. Perry, Jerome Winford, D. C. Kelley, R. R. Jones, A. E. Clement, George A. Morgan, Sam J. Thompson, J. J. Stowe, W. L. Jackson, T. L. Moody, H. B. Blue, W. H. Cotton, A. L. Monk, R. H. Hudgens, E. C. Atkins, B. F. Isom, T. A. Kerley, A. P. Walker, Wycliffe

Weakley, M. P. Woods, W. M. Cook, W. H. Blue, G. L. Wall, Fred C. Woodard, Faxon Small, Dean Stroud, Ed Rees, G. L. Wall.

Church school superintendents: Michael Kline, W. C. McCann, W. A. Gilmore, J. J. Green, Noah W. Cooper, J. T. Roberts, Dr. J. H. White, Dr. W. H. Hollinshead, M. A. Simpson, R. G. Fields, L. B. Loser, Robert L. Hawkins, Ernest Hatcher.

Official board: R. L. Anderson, Ward Austin, Mrs. C. V. Beard, secretary; Paul H. Beasley, Duncan E. Bedford, Fred W. Beesley, T. D. Bell, R. S. Boone, R. A. Cartwright, Miss Loreen Cook, Charles W. Cope, Mrs. Pearl Duncan, Charles B. Edmondson, O. G. Ferrell, H. C. Finger, Thomas C. Fisher, vice-chairman; E. B. Fowler, John C. Galbreath, S. Eugene Glenn, Ernest R. Hatcher, Lacy T. Hayes, Mrs. George Heard, Miss Emma Horton, William P. Hunter, Buford P. Jones, Edwin Kidwell, Leslie E. Kidwell, James H. Kilgore, W. W. Lane, Donald Lunn, Mrs. Luther Luton, Nick D. Malone, chairman; Cecil E. Marshall, Harold E. Martin, W. C. (Bill) McCullough, J. W. McGee, James E. Minor, T. O. Morris, Lannie W. Neal, C. R. Nixon, Virgil W. Parks, Walter D. Regen, Clarence Sanders, Ed K. Shaffer, Jr., George D. Shreeve, Mrs. James A. Simone, Mrs. Reece Smith, Mrs. Roy E. Smith, W. U. (Billy) Smith, Earl E. Spry, Emmet T. Strickland, Frank Teasley, Wallace W. Tucker, N. C. Wiggs, Miss Christine Wilburn, Talton T. Williams, Henry J. Wilson, J. Crawford Wilson, Marvin W. Wilson, Verner Yarbrough.

Trustees: W. W. Lane, John W. Finney, Sr., Marvin P. Frazer, Fred Beasley, R. E. Nottingham, Leslie E. Kidwell, W. F. Sheridan, Sr., and Dr. J. H. White.

Mr. Bob Smith has been our faithful organist from 1939 to the present date, and we hope he will continue for many years to come.

T. O. MORRIS, *Historian*

NEW BETHEL

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

Rev. J. W. Simmons, who was a local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church, organized the New Bethel Methodist Church in the summer of 1892. Mr. and Mrs. Jefferson Jenkins and Mr. and Mrs. G. A. White deeded to the following trustees two and one-half acres of land for the new church building: B. B. Brockett, J. W. Brown, J. R. Brooks, James Lawson, J. H. Jones, and W. Y. Jones.

Before unification of American Methodism, New Bethel was an appointment on the Haysville Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Since unification in 1939, it belongs to the LaFayette Circuit of The Methodist Church. It is one of seven churches on this

circuit. While the membership was never large, only seventeen at the present time, it is unexcelled in its loyalty and devotion to the doctrine and polity of The Methodist Church. This spirit was no doubt largely responsible for two young men of the congregation entering the ministry—Winfred W. Robinson and Edgar U. Robinson. A brother, A. B. Robinson, is a steward and church lay leader. This church from its beginning was blessed with a number of substantial medium-sized families, among whom were the following: the Dosses, Whites, Joneses, Jenkins, Brooks, Johnsons, Robinsons, Meadors and possibly others.

New Bethel assumes an apportionment for every item in General and Conference Work and meets its obligation in the community life.

EDGAR U. ROBINSON, *Superintendent*

FOUNTAIN HEAD

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

Fountain Head Methodist Church, Sumner County, was organized July 10, 1892; Rev. J. C. Myers pastor, Rev. W. M. Leftwich Presiding Elder.

At the organizational meeting three trustees were elected: E. H. C. Sarver, W. F. Butler and W. G. Pond. W. F. Butler and W. G. Pond were elected stewards. There were twenty-two members.

The church ground was secured, the church built and the deed recorded in 1896. The names of the trustees affixed to the deed were: J. M. Anderson, R. Tucker and W. G. Pond.

The nucleus of the membership of this church came from the old Fountain Head Church, which was located about one and one-half miles from the village of Fountain Head.

Fountain Head is one of the historic churches of Tennessee because its organizing membership came from the old Fountain Head Church, where on November 12, 1812, Bishops Francis Asbury and William McKendree organized the Tennessee Conference.

MRS. E. U. ROBINSON, *Pastor*

Mrs. E. U. Robinson was the first woman to be appointed to a pastorate in the Tennessee Annual Conference.—Editor.

BETHANY

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Bethany Methodist Church was organized and the building constructed in the year 1892 at the head of what is known as Big Indian Creek. The church was there until 1907; then it was torn down and

moved to the present site. It is located five miles west of Baxter, Tennessee, on Highway 70-N.

In the spring of 1955 a storm blew it off its foundation. As a result it was torn down and is now being replaced with a new and larger building with a full-size basement for classrooms.

B. M. HARNESS, *Pastor*

CORINTH

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

On May 19, 1892, A. V. Goodpasture and wife, Jennie W. Goodpasture, deeded to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, near Hampton Station, Tennessee, two acres of land for the consideration of one dollar. If and when they cease to use it as a place of worship, the property will revert back to the Goodpasture estate. The trustees as mentioned above were H. E. Bryan, Asa Randle, C. C. Robertson, James Brown, J. H. Randle and Rev. Jerome Duncan of the First Civil District of Montgomery County.

The F. L. Smithson's Planing Mill and Lumber Company furnished everything except the rough lumber and built the church in 1892. The logs were donated by the members of the church and J. H. and Asa Randle did the sawing free.

Prior to the building of Corinth, the Methodists and Episcopalians worshiped at White's Chapel at Rossview. (This church is now known as Grace Chapel.) The church was a union church, but it belongs to the Episcopalians now. The Rev. Jerome Duncan was the pastor of the Methodists prior to and after the building of Corinth. Asa Randle was the superintendent of the Sunday school for years and J. C. Rollow teacher of the Bible class.

The church register was lost, so we have no record from 1892 until 1905. However, we know that Irene Rollow was a faithful teacher of the young folk's class for years.

The pastors and years they served were as follows: J. W. Hensley, 1905; J. W. Farris, 1906; I. T. Cameron, 1907; T. R. Clendenning, 1908-09; J. G. Harper, 1910; J. T. Cotton, 1911-12; J. D. Hugley, 1913-16; W. F. Springer, 1917-18; F. G. Dickson, 1919-22; G. L. Wall, 1923-26; W. O. Largent, 1927; W. H. Beasley, 1928-30; O. E. Hall, 1931-35; J. E. Woodward, 1936-39; J. M. Putman, 1940; J. D. McReynolds, 1941-44; J. E. Thomas, 1945-47 (died); F. L. Hawkins substituted; P. M. Ritter, 1947-50; F. C. Ferguson, 1951-52; G. W. Baxter, 1953-55.

At present we have a membership of sixty-six. Woodrow Harris is the church lay leader. A. L. Boyer, Felix Evans and Woodrow

Harris are trustees. Norris Pace, A. L. Boyer, Porter Powell, M. W. Pressler and Woodrow Harris are stewards. W. D. Boyer is treasurer. Felix Evans is Sunday school superintendent. Norris Pace, Mrs. Woodrow Harris, and Sarah Evans are Sunday school teachers. Mrs. Woodrow Harris is pianist. Mrs. R. S. Bellamy is the only charter member living.

A. L. BOYER, *Historian*

CURRY'S CHAPEL

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Curry's Chapel Methodist Church, a small rural church located in the Seventh District of Jackson County, was organized in 1892. The land was given by H. H. Neal. Some of the families who actively helped in the organization of the church were: Rev. J. M. Kirby, Peter Goodwin, Jubilee Wheeler, L. C. McNabb, J. S. Ragland and W. M. Neal.

At the time of the organization of the church, the membership numbered approximately thirty. This number has steadily increased through the years and at the present time the membership is approximately sixty.

Former members of the church who entered the ministry were: W. E. Kirby, O. H. Kirby, Madison Wheeler and Rev. Ramsey.

Some of the ministers of the Tennessee Conference who have served this church as pastors are: Rev. R. B. Rawls, Rev. Charles J. Hawkins, Rev. F. F. Moore, Rev. L. F. Haley, Rev. W. T. Andrews, Rev. Harold Coke and Rev. W. E. Schearer. The Sunday school superintendent is A. L. Wheeler and the charge lay leader is O. C. Wheeler.

I. B. PENNINGTON, JR., *Pastor*

MAXWELL'S CHAPEL

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The Maxwell's Chapel Methodist Church was organized in 1892 by Rev. Rippetoe. The original location of the building was two and one-half miles east of Unionville.

The church now has a membership of seventy-six. Although the membership has never been large, ten young men went out from this church in the service of their country in World War II. Two missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Collins, and one local preacher, Johnny Norvell, have entered church work from this congregation.

There was a period of schism in this church and it seemed at one

time that it would be "torn to shreds," but for approximately twenty years now a spirit of cooperation and Christian fellowship has prevailed among its members.

LESTER B. NAVE, *Pastor*

BUNKER HILL

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Bunker Hill Methodist Church at Bunker Hill, Tennessee, in Giles County was organized at the schoolhouse in 1892. Among those interested in the new church enterprise were the following: G. W. Brownlow, J. J. Owen, J. M. Brooks, W. F. Brown, T. H. Holt, and others. The site of the present church was bought from Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Tucker, in August, 1895, and the purchase price was \$60.00. The deed was made to the following trustees: G. W. Brownlow, W. F. Brown, and T. H. Holt. When the deed was secured work on the building was begun in earnest, some gave money, some labor and others gave materials. The building was not entirely finished for two or three years but it was used for services. The membership at that time was probably less than thirty and we had a hard pull financially and otherwise. Our first pastor was Rev. Will H. Beasley and the pastoral charge was known as Bunker Hill Mission. The salary assessed for the year was \$125.00 and paid on this salary \$63.75. Rev. W. J. Collier was the Presiding Elder.

Our church building is in a fair state of preservation. We have electric lights and butane gas heat. We have about 150 members and we are going forward. We do not have space to list the names of all our pastors, but we are very much pleased with our present pastor, Rev. James T. Parsons.

J. L. McCracken, *Historian*

WOODS VALLEY

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Our Methodist church at Woods Valley is located on Little Bartons Creek in Dickson County and was organized in 1892.

The church ground was donated by a Mr. Slayden who was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church.

Dr. J. W. Brake, the oldest member, now in his nineties, graded the ground and lives near the church.

Our present membership numbers forty-seven. Our church building is in excellent condition.

J. C. ELLIOTT, *Pastor*

COLEMAN MEMORIAL

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The vivid story of the life of this church, its birth and growth, is a fascinating chapter in the history of the city of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee. The struggles and accomplishments of this church closely parallel the progress of the city in its other aspects. Hardened and strengthened by the travail of its birth, it grew and progressed to become a living, pulsating, vibrant part of this community.

One night, some seven or eight years before the turn of the century, a devout, consecrated Methodist preacher, Rev. W. H. Stricklin, gathered about him a small group of loyal followers of Christ, and that night, asking God's help from bended knees, the decision to build a house of worship was reached.

Soon the people of Lawrenceburg saw the dream of this little group become a reality as a one-room frame structure began to take form on the corner of North Military and First Streets. It was ideally situated on the main street of the city where it stood with its tall steeple majestically adding richness and fullness to the life of every passer-by.

The life of this church can be divided into two parts, the first part being from the beginning in 1892 until 1920 when Rev. H. C. Coleman became the pastor. During this period the mere handful of faithful, consecrated and energetic men and women who had so courageously erected the little church had grown and prospered until all could see the need for a more commodious as well as imposing sanctuary.

In addition to Rev. W. H. Stricklin, the pastor during the birth of this church, there were other very fine and noble pastors who worked in the midst of this congregation. They were as follows: Rev. J. W. Osment, 1894; Rev. B. W. Blessing, 1898; Rev. J. R. Thomas, 1900; Rev. J. W. Droke, 1902; Rev. J. D. Holland, 1904-06; Rev. T. J. Stricklin, 1906-09; Rev. H. P. Heathley, 1910-11; Rev. Virgil Paffard, 1911-12; Rev. C. L. Elliot, 1913-14; Rev. E. M. Nunely, 1915-16; Rev. C. W. Clayton, 1916-17; Rev. J. C. Richey, 1917-18; Rev. J. F. Blankenhorn, 1918-20.

The second part of the life of this church covers the period from 1920 until the present. During the summer of 1921 brave souls and willing hands moved the frame building which had served so well to the rear of the lot and a new church building was started. The cornerstone was laid in 1922 and through the use of long-lasting and enduring masonry construction for the new building as well as enclosing the old building with the same materials, the new church plant gradually became a beautiful and imposing edifice,

recognized even today as one of the finest church plants in this area.

Upon its dedication it was named Coleman Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church. Since unification in 1939, it is Coleman Memorial Methodist Church.

The list of pastors who have served since 1920 in addition to Rev. H. C. Coleman are: Rev. E. E. Cavaleri, 1926-27; Rev. B. W. Blessing, 1928-29; Rev. W. A. Sharp, 1930-31; Rev. G. W. Atkinson, 1931-32; Rev. M. D. Clayburn, 1932-35; Rev. P. M. Dixon, 1936-43; Rev. R. L. Freeman, 1944-47; Rev. O. H. Vanlandingham, 1947-50; Rev. Russell Boaz, 1950-54; Rev. John Mark Williams, 1954—.

The church has provided the ministry with eight preachers, as follows: Cranston Clayton, Robert Sharp, Vernice Ragsdale, Ernest Blessing, Elwood Denson, Ralph Johnson, Bernard Smith, Raymond Smith.

The hopes and prayers of Rev. W. H. Stricklin and his brave Christian followers back in the distant nineties blossomed into a sound and vital reality in the early twenties, and Coleman Memorial now stands, with its membership of over 500, as a monument to the toil, sacrifices and untiring energy of such sterling religious leaders as Rev. W. H. Stricklin and Rev. H. C. Coleman and the God-fearing men and women who struggled with them to develop the Coleman program from its incipency to what it is today.

The names of all those loyal men and women who have, down through the years, put into this church their love and devotion as well as their abilities and means are not mentioned here but their names are legion and will never be forgotten, for they are indelibly imprinted in the memory of our hearts.

EDWARD M. LINDSEY, *Historian*

RANSOM'S CHAPEL

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

This church was organized in the year 1893 and was originally called Ransom Chapel Methodist Church. The first pastor that was assigned to the church was the Rev. J. O. Blanton.

The church was dedicated the following year, 1894, by the Presiding Elder, Rev. Green P. Jackson.

The land for the church was given to the group by William Ransom and the church was named for him.

Once on the Shelbyville Charge, the church was then transferred to the Walnut Grove Circuit and has remained on this circuit since that time.

J. Rush Goodlow, M. P. Woods, E. F. Hudgens, J. K. Lee, C. R. Wade, H. Ed. Baker, W. H. Beasley, A. L. Hodges were some of the early pastors of this church.

DUWARD McCORD, *Pastor*

MAGGART

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Bushes, Grishams, Dickens, Woodards, Masseys, Shoemakes, Whites, Kings, Maggarts, Sadlers, Lomans, McCrarys, Harvilles and probably others provided funds with which to erect a Methodist Episcopal church in 1893. It was named Banks Chapel in honor of the first Presiding Elder, Rev. W. P. Banks. For thirty or forty years the congregation flourished and at one time the membership reached over 300. On account largely of a shift in the population the membership for two decades or more was reduced to 150.

Prior to unification of American Methodism in 1939, members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, worshiped in Ellis Chapel located in the community. Upon the completion of unification, Banks Chapel and Ellis Chapel were merged into a single Methodist church and named Maggart Methodist Church. The church is growing and in the report of 1954 had 168 members.

OSCAR D. NOLEN, *Pastor*

MONTEREY

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Monterey Methodist Church was organized in 1893 just after the Tennessee Central Railroad was built through this section. Prior to this, the community was known as Standing Stone. The first public worship was a Sunday school held in the office of Dr. R. L. Ray in 1892 or 1893. The Sunday school was moved from Dr. Ray's office to a small log schoolhouse. With the approach of winter, the Sunday school was moved to the railroad depot and from this place it was moved to a room in the hotel, where it remained until the first church building was erected in 1893.

Rev. J. T. Baker, who was pastor 1896-97, and Miss Mary Lou Black were the first to be married in the new building.

The present church building was begun during the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Pearson, 1911-13, and was completed in 1914 during the pastorate of Rev. R. M. Chenault. The educational unit was begun during the pastorate of Rev. M. H. Thompson, 1944-50, and finished

during the pastorate of Rev. B. H. Parker in 1951. The present parsonage was erected during the pastorate of Rev. W. W. Pullen in 1936-39.

The following served as pastors in the order named: M. N. Ford, E. A. Stellar, B. T. Smotherman, J. T. Baker, J. T. Tracy, E. F. Hudgens, G. D. Byrne, W. H. Baird, G. W. Nackles, E. F. Hudgens, G. R. Allen, E. R. McCord, J. W. Pearson, R. M. Chenault, S. M. Keathley, S. M. Ensor, J. A. Allison, J. D. Hewgley, W. E. Couser, J. E. Woodward, H. B. Blue, O. P. Gentry, W. W. Pullen, J. F. Swiney, E. M. Steele, W. J. Fesmire, M. H. Thompson, E. B. Willis, B. H. Parker.

The church has 302 members and 231 enrolled in the Sunday school and pays a salary for the pastor of \$3,300.00. All finances are paid regularly.

BUMPUS MILLS

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

On October 7, 1893, a plot of ground was deeded to Olivet Methodist Church, Bumpus Mills, Tennessee, by A. J. Bumpus to the trustees: A. E. Fentress, W. P. Cobb, and A. J. Bumpus. The land was deeded for both a church and a parsonage. However, the parsonage was located elsewhere.

Bumpus Mills Church suffered a great blow with the coming of Fort Campbell which took in much of the area near the village. Many of the people sold their farms and moved elsewhere. Despite all this, Bumpus Mills has continued to operate as an active church with a full program.

In 1952 Bumpus Mills completely remodeled the church. This work cost approximately \$1,875.00. The present membership is 126.

The church was fortunate in having one man enter the Methodist ministry—Rev. Macon C. Burke.

Bumpus Mills is a member of the Big Rock Charge.

DELWYN FRYER, *Pastor*

VANLEER

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Vanleer Methodist Church was organized in 1893 by Rev. J. R. Holmes and others, while Rev. R. R. Jones was District Superintendent, with thirty charter members.

For many years our society had no church building of our own, but had church school and preaching services in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, then later worshiped in the Baptist Church. In the month of September, 1927, while Rev. B. J. Skaggs was pastor, the cornerstone was laid. In 1930, during the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Wilson, Bishop H. M. DuBose dedicated the Vanleer Methodist Church.

The church has a beautiful auditorium and seven church school rooms. Present membership, as reported in Conference Journal of 1954, is 170.

J. C. ELLIOTT, *Pastor*

PEGRAM

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The Pegram Methodist Church of the Kingston Springs Pastoral Charge was erected in 1894, sixty-one years ago. The building lot was given by Mr. R. W. Pegram and his wife, Mary Pegram. The original name of the church was "Ebenezer." Later the name was changed to Pegram in honor of the Pegrams who gave the building lot. The original building was moved to a more suitable lot close to Pegram Station. In 1935 the building was relocated on the present site. The building became too small to accommodate the congregation and it was enlarged to a seating capacity of 100. The ground upon which the present church stands was deeded by Mrs. Carrie Heath, August 2, 1935, which is located south of the N. C. & St. L. Railroad, just off U.S. Highway 70. The present church membership is fifty-eight.

CHARLES SANDERS, *Historian*

ESTILL SPRINGS

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

While the town of Estill Springs was not established until sometime before the War Between the States, it was twenty-eight years after the close of the war, 1894, before the Methodist church was organized in the community. Members of Spring Creek Methodist Church, located about four miles northeast of the town, organized a Methodist church in the new schoolhouse which was the first church of any denomination in the town. A union Sunday school was organized and the Sundays were divided between the Methodists and the Separate Baptists—one Sunday each per month. This arrangement continued for ten years when, in 1904, Mrs. Callie M. Oliver donated a building lot and heavy materials for a Methodist

church and the Masonic Lodge. Mr. Foster G. Lucas, who was an engineer on the N. C. & St. L. Railroad, secured subscriptions from Brotherhoods of Engineers in the United States. All the Brotherhoods responded with donations from one to ten dollars each. Mr. R. J. Riddle, owner of the Tennessee Flour Mill, and employees made substantial contributions. The Masonic Lodge erected the second story. The cost of the roof and front doors was divided equally between the church and the lodge. Just before World War I, four Sunday school rooms were erected at the rear of the sanctuary. The church building was given a major overhauling about the beginning of World War II.

The church was dedicated by Dr. Joe B. Erwin January 8, 1905. Rev. Felix Coleman, who was blind, was the first pastor and presided at the dedication service. He was admitted on trial into the Tennessee Conference in 1895 and with his cultured wife rendered very effective service until his death in 1941. The first service conducted in the new building was the wedding of Miss Ida Oliver, daughter of Mrs. Callie M. Oliver, who gave the building lot, and Mr. J. W. Jakes, October 30, 1904. The first funeral was that of Foster G. Lucas, son of the engineer who received many contributions for the new building. He was killed while working for the N. C. & St. L. Railroad.

The Estill Springs Methodist Church was on the Decherd-Estill Springs Circuit until 1949. At that time Decherd became a station appointment. Estill Springs was placed with Cowan which had only been organized about two years. Estill has a church membership of 166 and the Sunday school enrollment is 135. Rev. Lee Medley is our pastor.

PAUL T. SHASTEEN, *Historian*

ALMYRA

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Almyra Methodist Church building was erected on the present site in 1894. Mr. Willian Dean, who was an ex-schoolteacher, donated the land. The church was named "Almyra" in honor of Mr. Dean's wife. It was originally erected for school purposes but the deed stipulated that the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches should have the privilege of using the building. The new Almyra replaced "Old" Macedonia which was also used for school and church purposes.

By 1951 the school and Presbyterian Church surrendered their rights in the dual-purpose building. By exchange of properties, land which the Methodist Church had acquired, the school authori-

ties erected a new brick building for school purposes only. The Methodist Church erected a building to be used for church services only. It has one of the most beautiful interiors of any church in White County. The total cost of remodeling the old building was \$4,200.00.

The church never had a large membership and today it is about sixty and the Sunday school enrollment is over seventy-five.

W. M. STOWERS, *Pastor*

WEST POINT

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The present West Point Methodist Church building was built in 1894 on land given by James L. Herrin and N. M. Hollis. This is a branch of the Chinubee Church which was organized in 1852 by Mrs. Elizabeth MacMackin Welch. The deed was registered in 1855. Since the Chinubee Church is only one mile distant, the trustees waited nine years to build the present West Point Church. The first trustees were: L. D. Thornton, M. C. Hardin, James L. Herrin, G. K. Welch, and N. M. Hollis. The first registered members were: Mrs. Mary Welch Herrin and John A. Welch, who were baptized in 1868 by J. B. Stevenson. The first pastor, Rev. J. G. Gibson, preached twice monthly. Our present membership is seventy-four, and the present pastor is Rev. Horace Woodard.

MRS. WILLARD OLSON

LOBELVILLE

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The church building was erected by the Cumberland Presbyterians about the year 1875-80. They used the building for ten or fifteen years but their church went out of existence and the building reverted to the McCaig heirs, who sold it to Mr. A. W. Dodson for a peanut storage house.

Mr. Dodson and Mr. Daniel Duncan decided to establish a Methodist church in the building in about 1894. In 1895 the church was organized with eight charter members. They were Daniel Duncan, Mary L. Duncan, Joseph N. Duncan, Berry B. Duncan, Douglas W. A. Duncan, Josie E. Baker, Allen W. Dodson and Mary J. Dodson. Of these eight charter members, only one is still living, Joseph N. (Nicolas) Duncan, now of the Buffalo Charge. The first pastor was the Rev. R. W. Ward, who was appointed October 22, 1894, and who

served from the Linden Circuit. The District Superintendent was J. R. Stewart.

This became the Lobelville Circuit in 1934 with the Rev. T. W. Mayhew as pastor and E. C. Shelton as District Superintendent. It is now a two-point circuit, consisting of Lobelville and Buffalo. It has now a membership of 225 and a church school enrollment of 102.

A four-room parsonage was erected in 1934 which served until May 1954 when a new \$12,000.00 parsonage was completed and occupied by the present pastor, Rev. Ernest Blessing.

A church school annex was added to the church auditorium in 1935. The building now consists of an auditorium and five classrooms.

The church bell has a history all its own. A Mrs. Reuka, a woman of German descent, whose husband was an early merchant of Lobelville, took donations from salesmen and others and ordered the bell directly from France. This bell is noted for its chimelike tones.

Members of the present official board: O. B. DePriest, Charlie Tate, John Gilmer, Mrs. Kate Gilmer, Frank Baren, Mrs. Hazel DePriest, Lexie Long, Ralph Patterson, T. C. Ferguson, R. H. Gray, Clayton Arnold, John DePriest, Miss Barba Bates, Dr. E. W. McPherson, Milton Ledbetter, Mrs. Ed Baker.

CLAYTON ARNOLD, *Historian*

BARNESVILLE

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

Prior to the erection of the present church building about 1900, the Barnesville Church conducted services in the school building. This church began in the days when Napier iron furnace was in operation, when logging was at its height, and a railroad connected Summertown and Napier. Barnesville was situated on this line five miles west of Summertown. The railroad has been discontinued for some years and the roadbed has become the Railroad Pike. With the passing of these industries, the church has suffered decline. It was discontinued in 1948 and reactivated in 1950. It has today a membership of thirty-eight with little prospects for much growth for the lack of people living in this area. These are fine loyal people and deserving of the best. Val Gene Smith, a young man of superior qualities, is the church school superintendent and also the charge lay leader. Other members of the official board are as follows: W. M. Cook, supplying the charge as pastor, Ed Smith, Lester Carroll, Mrs. Lester Carroll, Miss Dorothy Pennington, and Mrs. Mary Moore. The church was at first on the old Henryville and Napier Charge. It is now on the Summertown Charge.

W. M. COOK, *Pastor*

MOLINO

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

Mr. J. W. Rawls, uncle of Mr. Hugh Rawls who resides near the church, deeded the building lot to the Molino Methodist Church August 23, 1880. The deed reads as follows: "In consideration for the love I have for the cause of Christ and from an earnest desire to promote his heritage on earth do give and grant and by these presents convey unto H. T. Rowell, J. W. Rawls, R. W. Askins, Jas. Hays, Robert Bradford, Trustees of the M.E. Church, South, and their successors in office forever, a plot of ground lying in the village of Molino, District No. 1 as follows." (Here a detailed description of the land was listed.) The deed contained the trust clause as follows: "In trust, that said premises shall be used, kept, maintained, and disposed of, as a place of divine worship for the use of the ministry and membership of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; subject to the discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments of said Church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference of said Church, and by the Annual Conference within whose bounds the said premises are situated." The following witnessed the deed: James A. Cole and R. M. Woodard.

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church had a congregation about halfway between Molino and Harms. It was called "New Hope." The A.R.P. decided to move nearer Harms, which was a growing business center. A new church building was erected at the new location and named "Elk Valley." The abandoned New Hope church building was sold to the Methodists who moved it to the building lot in Molino in 1895. There is no record to show that the building lot secured by grant from Mr. J. W. Rawls in 1880 was occupied before 1895.

Smith's Chapel Methodist Church on the road between Molino and Coldwater declined when the Methodist Church in Molino was organized in 1895. Several members transferred their memberships to the new congregation in Molino and a few affiliated with the Coldwater Methodist Church. The Smith's Chapel building was finally sold to the Negroes who conduct religious services there at the present time.

The Molino Methodist Church, like many others in Middle Tennessee, has suffered a decrease in membership and finances on account of a shift in population. However, with about a dozen active members the congregation is realistically facing the situation, carrying on under difficult conditions, and looking forward to better days in the future. The following are members of the official board: B. W. Templeton, B. W. Templeton, Jr., L. B. Sanders, Mrs. R. H. Askins, Mrs. B. W. Templeton, Mrs. B. W. Templeton, Jr.

SHIELDS TEMPLETON, *Historian*

PISGAH

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The Pisgah Church of the Hustburg-Plant Charge in the County of Humphreys, Denver, Tennessee, Clarksville District, has served its people for sixty years in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Early history of Pisgah reveals that the building site containing two and one-half acres was purchased by the church trustees—namely, S. W. Plant, T. L. Duncan, and Dr. J. T. Cooley—on March 19, 1895, from R. A. Jackson and wife, Bettie. According to deed registered on August 23, 1895, and witnessed by the Rev. J. R. Harris and W. H. Pickett, the property was by title the Pisgah Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of the Dickson District.

There is no procedure of accuracy in which to list the individual names of interested persons who contributed labor and material possessions in order that this beautiful rural church might be a standing memorial to God in heaven. However, it is well to commemorate the name of Rev. J. R. Harris who gave the full measure of his time and efforts to bring to completion the newly established church of which he served as the first pastor.

About twenty-five charter members were on roll upon date of the opening church worship service. The present enrollment of fifty members is indicative of the fact that the membership is not large in numbers. Though relatively small in total of members, there is an active program of participation among the people of the church.

G. M. WAGGONER, *Historian*

MARION

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Marion Methodist Church was organized in 1895 at the present location. It was organized by Rev. Dangerfield and others with thirty charter members. Present membership of 130 was reported in Conference Journal, 1954.

Two strong Methodist ministers have been furnished by this church—Rev. J. G. Harper, deceased, and Rev. John I. Dickson, now pastor of Springfield Methodist Church.

J. C. ELLIOTT, *Pastor*

VIOLA

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Viola Methodist Church is located in the town of Viola, Tennessee. It was built in 1896 and dedicated later by Bishop E. E. Hoss.

Early leaders were the Hoover, Ramsey and Mabry families whose descendants still take an active part in the activities of the church. Rev. Charlie Wade was the first pastor, appointed in 1898. This was the home church of Joe Ramsey, who was blind, a lay evangelist of national reputation.

ROBERT THORNTON, JR., *Pastor*

BAXTER

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The prelude to the organization of the Baxter Methodist Church extended over a period of at least six years, 1896-1902. In 1896 the Rev. George Washington Nunally of the Methodist Episcopal Church became the pastor of the Bloomington Circuit. None of the seven churches on the circuit at that time were located in what is now the town of Baxter, although a number of them were within a few miles of the town. Gentry's Chapel, for example, was located only one mile south of town on the west side of the Sparta Road. The village itself was known as Mine Lick, and the post office was called Ai. The origin of both names is unknown.

Although the Rev. G. W. Nunally had no regular appointment in the village at that time, he would frequently preach in and around Mine Lick, and by the beginning of the century conditions seemed favorable for the organization of a church. Under the leadership of Bishop Vincent, Presiding Elder T. J. Strickland, and Pastor G. W. Nunally organization was planned.

The year between the Annual Conference held in the fall of 1901 and the one held in the fall of 1902 is a very important one in the history of Baxter Methodist Church and of the town of Baxter. In the Conference Journal of the Central Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church of 1901, the appointment of G. W. Nunally reads Cookeville-Bloomington, Post Office Ai. In the Conference Journal of 1902, the appointment reads Baxter-Bloomington. We must conclude that during this period two things happened. First, the name of the town was changed from Mine Lick with post office Ai to Baxter. The town was named for Jere Baxter of Nashville, president of the Tennessee Central Railroad. Secondly, the conference records indicate that during this year a church was organized with the Rev. G. W. Nunally as pastor, and this church was called Baxter Methodist Episcopal Church.

Upon organization of the church, plans were started immediately for a new frame church building. This building was erected during the years 1903 and 1904. The location of this church was on the west side of the Sparta to Carthage road about two hundred yards

north of the present site. It was located on the property now belonging to Mr. Ernest Austin.

By the year 1922, Baxter Seminary was becoming a vital institution of the Methodist Episcopal Church in this area, and it was becoming the center of both educational and religious activity. The pastors of the church often served as directors of religious education at the Seminary. Revival meetings were held in the auditorium of the school. And during the pastorate of the Rev. S. E. Taylor, 1922-25, the frame building was abandoned as a church. Worship services were held in the chapel at Baxter Seminary, and lumber from the old building was used in the construction of a gymnasium at the school. Other assets derived from that property were applied later to the building of a new church.

All activities of the church continued to be conducted at the Seminary until 1929. At that time the congregation moved to its present location. Plans for the present church were begun in 1928 while Rev. E. M. Nunally, son of the first pastor, was Presiding Elder. Under his leadership and that of the pastor, Rev. Walter A. Sharp, the church was completed in 1929.

The following men have served as pastors of Baxter Methodist Church. They served in the order named. G. W. Nunally, J. A. Harris, H. P. Keathley, E. M. Nunally, G. W. Nunally, F. S. Ditto, C. E. Austin, H. P. Keathley, J. B. Dickens, D. J. Proctor, J. D. Harris, C. H. Corkran, S. E. Taylor, C. W. Clayton, W. A. Sharp, W. J. Fesmire, J. C. Sandusky, H. P. Keathley, Gueary Reed, G. C. McIlwain, C. A. Stephens, and F. B. Hembree.

Presiding elders and district superintendents have been W. P. Banks, T. J. Strickland, J. D. Harris, J. A. Harris, J. F. Blankenhorn, B. W. Blessing, H. P. Keathley, E. M. Nunally, C. B. Cook, E. U. Robinson, and S. D. Organ.

At the time of organization, Baxter was one of seven churches on the Baxter-Bloomington Circuit. The total membership for the circuit was less than three hundred, and the total budget for the circuit was two hundred and sixteen dollars. The membership of Baxter Methodist Church is now three hundred, and the current budget is five thousand dollars.

FRED B. HEMBREE, *Pastor*

TAYLOR'S CROSS ROADS

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Prior to the building of the church, the meetings were held in a log school house. The building was erected by its first pastor, Rev. N. B. Taylor, members of the congregation and neighbors. Mr. and

Mrs. George W. Taylor gave two acres of land December 11, 1897. The deed was registered March 7, 1898. The work was completed and the first sermon was delivered in the new building by the pastor Rev. N. B. (Nathan Byrd) Taylor the third Sunday in May, 1898—fifty-seven years ago. Following were the trustees: C. W. Hill, M. D. Davis, M. A. Barnes, E. Billbrey, G. W. Richardson. Following are the members of the church: Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Hill, Nealey Hill, Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Barnes, Mattie Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Richardson and daughters Fannie, Ida, and Nannie; Susan and Sarah Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bilbrey, Mrs. Ewander Bilbrey, Lilly Danner, Mrs. L. D. Taylor, Celia Smith, Mrs. Joe D. Hatcher and daughters, Mrs. Polk Taylor and daughters—Carie, Mary, Irean, and Cora; Teal Sells, Sarah Sells, B. F. Spicer, J. W. Spicer, Harriet Spicer, Malisa Phillips, Martha Phillips. (Perhaps an incomplete list.)

In the early 1920's the church was nearly filled to capacity at most of the services. With the passing of the years the attendance dwindled. A union Sunday school was conducted with the Presbyterians for a great many years. Then in 1946 the Presbyterians united with the Methodist church. However, since then quite a few people have moved away and others transferred to other churches. The membership now numbers about forty.

J. H. BROWN, *Pastor*

LOCKHART'S CHAPEL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

On the first of May 1897, fifty-eight years ago, a Sunday school was organized at Cave Orchard school house one half mile south of Lockhart's Chapel. The Sunday school continued all through the year of 1897. The superintendent was Mr. W. J. Broaddus who was also a local Methodist preacher.

In the fall of 1897 a mass meeting was held in the interest of a Methodist church and after prolonged discussion it was agreed to build a Union church. Mr. W. T. Thomas and Mr. Robert Steele officials in the Cumberland City Methodist Church who were present finally persuaded the mass meeting to build a Methodist church. The citizens of the community gave money, materials and labor and by the middle of the winter (1898) the church building was completed. Soon after the building was completed the Methodist church was organized with the following officials: trustees—T. L. Richardson, T. W. Lockhart, John F. Broaddus. Stewards—T. L. Richardson, M. F. McCallam, R. W. Tomlinson.

Services began in the new church April 3, 1898, with thirty-five charter members. M. F. McCallam was elected superintendent of

the Sunday school and T. H. Richardson was elected assistant. Miss Lizzie Schmid was elected secretary and treasurer. Rev. John Know Lee was pastor. On the fourth Sunday in May, 1898, the new church was dedicated by Rev. T. L. Moody, presiding elder of the Dickson District.

On account of its location, Lockhart's Chapel has had no permanent abiding place. For a long time it was on the Cumberland City charge, for a time with Erin and since 1949 with the restoration of the Palmaria circuit it has been with Cumberland City Circuit.

Rev. Leo Parker has served as pastor since 1953.

MRS. CHARLIE LOCKHART, *Historian*

LIBERTY

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

Services were first held in the school house of Liberty Community, where the school was built in 1838.

In 1898, Mr. Lowery made the deed to the people for a church. The church was built and was dedicated on May 31, 1901. Rev. Powers, pastor of Bethpage Church, preached the sermon, using Psalm 50:2, "Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined forth." J. R. Stewart was the presiding elder. Lunch was served at noon hour, and there were talks in the afternoon.

A high point in the life of this church was when tent meetings were held on the Liberty Church grounds. All churches of the circuit joined for the meetings.

The church is about four miles northwest of Gallatin near Red River Road.

RUSSELL E. LINDSAY, *Pastor*

CROSS PLAINS

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

Located on the main street of Cross Plains, Tenn., is the Cross Plains Methodist Church, which had its beginning in 1898. According to records the congregation worshipped with a Union Church before that date.

It was W. V. Jarrett, pastor of the Union Church in 1897, who helped the Methodist people get a church of their own. In 1898 a beautiful one-room church was built on the corner of the lot belonging to the parsonage, the parsonage having been built some eight or ten years before which is our present day parsonage. After Brother Jarrett other pastors of this one-room church were J. W. Fairis,

Jerome Winford, J. G. Harper, T. R. Clendenin, G. L. Hensley, S. M. Ensor, W. T. Springer, and W. J. Walkup. Among the first stewards of this church were John M. Covington, John W. Durrett, Dr. E. Jernigan, David Jones, Squire Jim Ford, and C. F. Glidwell. Dawson Durrett was choir director at this time and a very active member.

In October, 1923, W. L. Harwell was sent as pastor and by this time the congregation had outgrown the one-room church and a need for Sunday school rooms was evident so a move to build a new church was started. Dr. J. W. Thomas, chairman of the building committee, worked without ceasing and in 1925 the congregation moved into the present building. The church was dedicated July 5, 1931. Bishop DuBose preached the sermon, John H. Richards presented the church to the Bishop and Dr. J. W. Thomas burned the note. Since that date a modern kitchen has been installed, an electric organ installed in 1948 and only recently have the front steps of the church been rebuilt.

Some of the former pastors of the church after Brother Harwell were O. E. Hall, W. H. Beasley, B. H. Parker, R. T. Benton, John W. Kelly, B. H. Brandon, A. W. Delk, and the present pastor, F. R. Herlong.

The Rev. F. R. Herlong was sent as pastor in June, 1952. Again with a very evident need for Sunday school rooms with our present membership 245, a move was started in 1954 for an Educational Building. The building is near completion which consists of four Sunday school rooms, pastor's study, two rest rooms and a recreational room in the basement.

Members of the official board are: stewards—Roy Sanders, chairman; Orman West, Sr., vice-chairman; Orman West, Jr., secretary; Bruce Cook, Lloyd R. Traughber, J. E. Howard, Conley Tate, Jarrett Luton, Joe Covington, John M. Covington, Robert Yates, Ray Graves, Owen Murphy and Harold Tate. Sunday school superintendent—Lloyd F. Traughber; President of W.S.C.S., also superintendent of children—Mrs. John A. Covington; president of W.S.G.—Mrs. Willis Villines; Church trustees—Felix Yates and Ralph Dunn; Parsonage trustees—W. B. Thomas and Robert Tate; president M.Y.F.—Margie Redferrin; chairman, Commission on Missions—Mrs. J. E. Covington; chairman, Commission on Evangelism—Mrs. J. E. Howard.

The musical staff consists of Mrs. Iva Cutrell, Shirley West, Mrs. F. R. Herlong, Mattie Sue Rather and Lloyd R. Traughber. Mrs. Cutrell has served faithfully as pianist and organist since the first church was built except for a short time when she was away. The church is grateful to her for her service.

Mrs. J. H. Richards and Mrs. J. E. Covington have served as Sunday school teachers longer than anyone else and Mr. Roy Sanders has served twenty years as superintendent and assistant before that. Other members that have meant much to the church in past days are as follows: Mrs. I. L. Freeland, Mrs. Floyd Covington, Mrs. Laura Covington, Lee T. Dowell, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. John K. Simmons, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Estes, Mrs. John W. Durrett, Mr. John H. Richards, Mrs. C. F. Glidewell, Mrs. M. Patterson and Dr. Roy L. Hendley.

To these mentioned and many others that have passed this way we owe our Christian heritage.

MRS. ORMAN WEST, JR., *Historian*

WHITE HOUSE

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

About sixty-five years ago, Mr. Ned Wilks donated a building lot in White House to several members of the Freewill Baptist church for church purposes. The plan did not materialize. Following this sad experience, several members of the Presbyterian Church attempted to organize a congregation which also failed. Finally the property reverted to Mr. Wilks.

In 1898, ten members of the Methodist church purchased the unfinished structure and lot from Mr. Ned Wilks for \$40.00. The following members of the building committee finished the structure in three or four years: A. J. Erwin, G. W. Fitzgerald, N. O. Covington, Lon Shannon, and W. J. Kelly. The following were charter members: Edward W. Strain, Jacob F. Covington, Nannie Lee, Lizzie Jernigan, Mary Wilson, Charlie E. Wilson, John Wilson. Rev. W. V. Jarratt who was pastor of the Cross Plains charge supervised the project and was pastor for the first four years of its history.

In 1902, the White House Circuit was organized and Rev. W. H. Lovell was assigned as pastor. During his pastorate the first parsonage on the charge was erected. In this parsonage his son Eugene was born, who has served as a missionary to Africa since 1930. And his brother Marshall has served with him in Africa since 1939.

The White House Methodist Church is planning for greater expansion and achievements in a larger and more modern plant. It is estimated the new building will cost approximately \$50,000 or more. The building committee has been elected and is composed of the following: Robert Baird, T. E. Byrum, Victor Hollis, Robert Covington, Joe Shannon Wilkinson, Harold Cole, Harold Coving-

ton, and J. M. Wilkinson. Rev. R. E. Stevenson is the architect. Honorary members: W. J. Kelly and Lon Shannon who were members of the building committee for the 1922 church building.

On Thursday, August, 1953, the White House charge gave a banquet honoring Rev. H. W. Seay who was finishing his six years as superintendent of the Cumberland District and preparatory to his superannuation at the approaching Annual Conference in Murfreesboro, September 3. He spent a total of forty-nine years in the active ministry.

White House has had twenty-six pastors during its fifty-seven years of history. Mrs. Russell B. Jackson has served twenty-six years as Recording Steward, and for the past fifteen years has served also a secretary-treasurer in a most efficient manner. The present membership of the church is 193 and growing.

R. E. STEVENSON, *Pastor*

HICKORY POINT

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The Hickory Point Methodist Church was organized in the fall of 1898 by W. W. Hodges, C. C. Johnson, and Mr. Jake Rinehart. Mr. Hodges contributed the land and most of the logs to be sawed into lumber to build the church. J. W. Cross, Sr. sawed the logs and it was completed in the spring of 1899 and dedicated in July of the same year. The lot facing the church was given by H. M. Bearden.

The first Methodist pastor was John S. Rice. Mrs. Ollie Hodges was first secretary.

The church was first built as a union church by Presbyterians and Methodists. Each denomination used it two Sundays a month. The membership was 150 with an average attendance of 130.

In 1907 the Methodists bought out the Presbyterians. The church has survived wars, drouths, and many hardships, but has always managed to have services each Sunday. The salary for the pastor at times has been quite difficult to collect.

In 1917 the church was blown off the foundation during a tornado. No damage was done. There was not any building program until 1951 when Sunday school rooms were built. During the years the church was kept in good condition.

The church is fully organized with a membership of about 140. It is one of four churches on the Asbury Charge, and the two preaching services are on the first and third Sundays of the month.

JOHN E. STAVELY, *Pastor*

WATER VALLEY

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The land for the first Methodist church at Water Valley was deeded by Mr. S. Crowell about 1899. The parsonage land was deeded by Mrs. Bettie Hayes a short time later.

The first church was a white frame building, constructed in 1899. Brother W. G. Moody held the first appointment, November 1, 1899. The following is a list of pastors up to the present time: Hanlin, Harris, Coleman, Mays, Armstrong, Wilson, Freeman, Handlin, Kirby, Clark, Moffit, Largent, Ethridge, Edgar, Moore, Crawford, Johnson, and Langston.

Names of early founders of the church are: Donegan, Brown, Vineyard, Little, Crowell, Wheeler, Markers, Klines, Hayes, Griffins, Johnsons, and Jones.

The parsonage has been constructed twice. The present one was constructed while Brother Moore was pastor.

The second and present church was finished in 1954, with Brother Langston as pastor and Brother Tipps as District Superintendent. It is a concrete block structure and was paid for when built. The building committee members were: Ben James, Josh Wheeler and William Ethridge.

Present officials are—Stewards: Herbert Vineyard, Ben James, Irene James, William Ethridge, Floyd Ethridge. Mrs. William Ethridge is Church School Superintendent. Teachers are; Martha Vineyard, Cyril Mathis, William Ethridge, and Ben James. Mrs. Ben James is Secretary.

Water Valley is very proud of its beautiful church. The setting is very lovely. We wish to pay tribute to many who have kept the faith and have gone before us and we are looking forward to a wonderful future.

"On Christ, the solid Rock, we stand. All other ground is sinking sand."

RALPH R. LANGSTON, *Pastor*

IVY BLUFF

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The Ivy Bluff Methodist congregation was organized in a Baptist church building in 1899 in the same community where it is now located. There were sixteen charter members some of whom were Jim Spangler, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cooper, Taylor Cooper, William Banks, Mr. and Mrs. Odus Banks, Mr. and Mrs. Edd Banks, and John Parker. Reverend J. C. Crocker was pastor; Reverend A. C.

Covey was presiding elder as the leader for the district was then called.

This congregation had union services with the Baptist church until they could get their building completed. Even after the building was completed, they worshiped with the Baptist people alternating Sundays in places of worship. Union services were continued on the first Sunday in May for several years with preaching by both Methodists and Baptists, foot washing sometimes, singing plus a spread of "dinner on the ground." The day is now continued as Homecoming day for the church, devoted entirely to singing and dinner on the ground.

The building committee for this first church was composed of Peter Duncan, John Parker, Odus Banks. The building was erected without very much money by the cooperative effort of the entire membership which had grown to thirty-five by the time the building was completed. This frame structure stood for forty-two years. The congregation outgrew it, and a beautiful brick structure with altar furnishings that add reverence to worship was erected on the same building lot as the other, being placed adjacently behind. The building *fund* was started four years before the building was begun, J. F. Rowlett being pastor at this time the building committee was started; this time the building committee was composed of John R. Charter, Herman R. Banks, Orlie A. Bickel, Homer Parker, Houston Parker and Orville Smith. With contributions from interested people, help from the Tennessee Conference with work and lumber contributed by people of the community, a thirty-five thousand dollar (conservative estimate) building was completed and completely paid for by 1948. Bishop Paul B. Kern dedicated the building in April of 1949, with Reverend Virgil Tipps, pastor.

As soon as the church was properly organized it was placed on a circuit with Goosepond, Mudcreek, Cold Water and Bell Springs (Noah), known as the Bell Springs mission. It has been on the Morrison-Summitville circuit. Twice it has been placed on the Woodbury Circuit where it now is with a membership of approximately one hundred eighty-seven.

No missionaries nor preachers according to the professional use of the words have gone out from its doors, but Christian day workers have served and are serving in churches throughout Tennessee, and other places such as Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Texas, Florida. Many people who have been saved at its altars have gone out to unite themselves with other denominations where as a family group they could make their lives meaningful.

Odus Banks is the only living charter member.

R. E. STEVENSON, *Pastor*

ALGOOD

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Until the year 1899, there was no church in Algood. However, in 1896, the Algood people, with Mr. C. H. Rickman as their leader, organized a Sunday school at Prospect, a small Presbyterian church a few miles out. At that time the common mode of transportation was by wagon.

In 1899, a Methodist church was erected on the same ground where it stands today. The lot on which the church was built was given by Alfred Algood, who at one time owned all of the land where the town stands.

Our first pastor was Reverend Baker. At that time we were on a circuit with Livingston, Monterey and Cookeville. Services were held only once a month—on the third Sunday morning. Other denominations used the building for their services, on a Sunday other than the third, or in the afternoon. In the early days, the pastors from a distance came in a buggy or on horseback and were called circuit riders. The preachers usually arrived in the evening before the service was to be held the following day. Someone in the community entertained the preacher overnight and also took care of his horse.

At the Annual Conference of 1945 the Algood church became a full time station with Reverend W. T. Andrews as the first station pastor.

As far as records are available, the following young men have gone into full time ministry from the church: James M. Davis, Harold E. Buck, and Theodore R. Malouf.

In the spring of 1909, the church was blown down by a cyclone. The first church had a porch in front with a door in the center. A plank fence enclosed the grounds. We used an organ at that time, and Mrs. Elise Epperson Howard was the organist. However, soon after the church was rebuilt, we purchased our first piano from Mrs. Sam Powell.

Several years later the old Presbyterian church was purchased and added to the back of the Methodist church and now serves as an auditorium for the primary and junior departments of the Sunday school.

In 1948 a kitchen and three Sunday school rooms were added. In 1949 we remodeled and redecorated the main auditorium. In recent years it was determined that the church had outgrown its facilities, so in 1953 an extensive building program was launched, which included the building of eight new Sunday school rooms, the redecorating of Fellowship Hall, and a room equipped for a church office and

study. In September of 1954, through the generous contribution of Mrs. C. E. Stites, a set of chimes was added to the church.

Reverend Hosale was the first pastor to live in the new parsonage which was built in 1923. In the 1953 building program the parsonage was completely redecorated, a refrigerator and three suites of bedroom furniture were added, as well as a cabinet sink for the kitchen.

The present membership of the church at Algood is 392. The present enrollment of the Sunday school is 197, with an average attendance of 140.

LENA MAE COULSON, *Historian*

ROSE VALLEY

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The present structure of the Rose Valley Methodist Church was built in 1899. The land for the church was deeded by G. H. Bird to the trustees: W. M. Lewis, I. H. Atkins, and Sam Gafford. Rev. Freeman was the pastor at the time of the building.

Before this present structure was erected, there was a building located near the present site which was used as a school and a union church. The Methodist church had an organization in this building and held its services here until the present building was built in 1899.

The Rose Valley church was on the charge with the Indian Mound church and some others from 1913-17. In 1918, it became a part of the Big Rock Circuit again where it has remained since that date.

The building at Rose Valley has been remodeled during the last three years. The present membership of the church is 187.

DELWYN FRYER, *Pastor*

ROWESVILLE

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The Rowesville Methodist Church had its beginning in an old school house across the road from where the church now stands. The building was used by all denominations for many years. Then there was a Methodist church school organized which lasted for a few years. The first Methodist preachers were students from Vanderbilt University.

In the year of 1913 the present church was built. The first pastor was the Rev. R. A. Langston. There are three members still living that were members when the church was first organized. They are as follows: Mrs. Walter Troxler, Mrs. George Kinbro, Mrs. A. E. Hitt, all of Rowesville community.

In the year of 1954 a Woman's Society of Christian Service was organized by Mrs. Parks Gammill who was the secretary of promotion in the Murfreesboro District. Mrs. W. B. Troxler was elected first president.

The church now has a very strong church school with Paul Troxler as church school superintendent. The church has a membership of fifty-five. The church is now on the Wartrace and Normandy Charge. The Rev. Mitchell Sawyer is the pastor.

MRS. WALTER TROXLER, *Historian*

ASBURY

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Asbury Chapel Methodist Church was named for Bishop Francis Asbury who traveled the famous trace from East Tennessee to Middle Tennessee through this section of the country. Asbury is one of the few Methodist churches in Pickett County. It was organized in 1900. Rev. Charlie Driver was the inspiration and first pastor. Rev. Jasper Kearney, a minister in the former Methodist Episcopal Church, was licensed to preach in this church. He became a member of the Tennessee Conference through Unification. Asbury has only a membership of fifty-four but is strong in the faith and making headway.

W. C. MASSENGALE, *Pastor*

CUMBERLAND CITY

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Mrs. Elizabeth Morris was one of the pioneer Christians who assisted in the organization of the first Sunday school in Cumberland City. The present building was erected about 1902 during the pastorate of Rev. W. J. Walkup. The land was purchased from Mr. Bob Rochelle. Mr. W. T. Thomas and Mr. Bob Steele were among the leaders in the erection of the building. Rev. J. K. Lee was pastor.

Among the twenty-six pastors who have served the Cumberland City church were Rev. W. H. Lovell and his son Rev. Eugene Lovell who has served as a missionary in Africa for several years. His brother Marshall also is a missionary to Africa and has been for many years. This church was also highly honored in its early history by visits of two distinguished Bishops—E. E. Hoss and W. R. Lambuth.

The Woman's Missionary Society was organized in 1894 with Mrs. J. H. Bayer as the first president. Some of the presidents since then have been—Mr. James Lewis, Mrs. Susie Caldwell, Mrs. W. N.

Thomas, Mrs. Nixon Richard, Mrs. James Carney, Mrs. Charles Stacker, Mrs. G. C. Bass, Mrs. John Hill Thomas, Mrs. A. L. Jarratt, Miss Mary B. Stacker, and Mrs. Edward McCracken who now serves as president.

Since September 1953, the Cumberland City circuit has had one hundred and fifty conversions. Of this number one hundred and thirty-five united with the churches on the charge. Forty-six of whom united with the Cumberland City Methodist Church. This church is a great power for God and will so continue. Rev. Leo Parker has served as pastor since 1953.

LILLIAN BAYER, *Historian*

SANGO

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Rev. Jeremiah W. Cullom was assigned at the Annual Conference in McMinnville, October 24-29, 1900, to "Bethlehem and Sango" in the Clarksville District. There was no church at Sango and this was the first time the name appeared in the Conference Journal. All visible evidence pointed to the fact that Sango community would become a Methodist center. The new pastor rented a house in which to live from Sam Halliburton who was a merchant in the community. Religious services were conducted in the public school building Sunday afternoons. During the following year, 1901, the church was completed and named Morrison Chapel in honor of Bishop Morrison who was born in the vicinity. Later, about 1906, Morrison Chapel was renamed Sango Methodist Church. (The name was changed primarily because there was another Morrison Methodist Church near McMinnville, Tennessee.) The sixteen charter members for the organization in 1901 have increased to 278 in 1955.

The parsonage was finished in time for Rev. R. S. Tinnon to occupy it in 1908. The church building was dedicated by Rev. J. W. Cullom in 1912. Rev. T. A. Carden was pastor of the Asbury Circuit with Sango as one of the appointments. Rev. E. L. Gregory was the Presiding Elder. During the pastorate of Rev. B. F. Argo, 1936-38, a basement was built which made provision for four Sunday school rooms. Five additional Sunday school rooms were erected during the pastorate of Rev. R. C. Moore, 1944-48, and the sanctuary was also improved, and the heating system was changed from a coal furnace to propane gas.

During its history of fifty-four years, Sango was associated in pastoral charges with Bethlehem, Hickory Point, Carmel, Grant's Chapel and Brewers Chapel. The name of the Pastoral charge today is "Sango-Bethlehem." The plant is modern with a full program of

activities for a rural church with the Sunday school enrollment of nearly two hundred and fifty. Rev. John B. Sessoms is our pastor.

The following are members of the official board: Trustees—R. C. Turrentine, William Sawyer, Densil Fletcher, G. C. Wilson, Claud Miller, and Joe Richardson. Stewards—Billy E. Cocke, Gordon Evans, Vernon Gibbs, B. L. Heflin, Lynton Jones, Roscoe Langford, V. C. Moffitt, L. M. Perry, Tom Stanley, Louis Ussery, Burgess Winters, Gordon Woodson, Harlan Edwards, B. Joe Evans, Julian Harris, J. W. Hicks, Milton Jones, Roy Miller, E. E. Parker, Tandy Richardson, D. L. Stowe, W. P. Wilson, Walton Winters, Charles Winn. Sunday school Superintendent—Densil Fletcher. President of W.S.C.S.—Mrs. Troy Halliburton. President of M.Y.F.—Edgar Parker. President of Y.A.F.—Mrs. Gordon Evans.

MRS. HATTIE DAVIS, *Historian*

GREENWOOD

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The Greenwood Methodist Church was a former Methodist Episcopal Church. It was organized in 1902. Services were conducted in the nearby school house until Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Lutts deeded land for the church and cemetery. The cornerstone for the new church building was laid in April, 1907, and the building was completed in 1908. The first pastor was Rev. A. L. Wheatley. Among the pastors who served this church are the following: J. H. Blackwood, L. P. Reeder, P. M. Weaver, G. W. Stem, Richard Springer, Elton Cato. Rev. Charles Dean is the present pastor.

In 1951, the church building was enlarged with the addition of five Sunday school rooms. The church has a membership of seventy-three and the Sunday school enrollment is eighty-six, which guarantees a bright future.

Historian

WOODLAND STREET

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Woodland Street Methodist Church is located in the southern part of the city of Springfield. It was organized in 1902 by the Rev. John Chenault. Meetings were held in the Woodland Street school until the year 1908. In this year the main part of the present building was erected. Mr. E. L. Benton, Sr., the only living charter member, did much of the carpenter work. He reports that, "One Saturday morning Brother Chenault came by my house and said, 'let's go over and lay off the church.' We took lines, stakes, and a level

and laid it off. Many times during the construction of the building I worked alone. It was my dream that our children should have a church close by which they could attend." His dream became a reality, and this family has served the church through the years until the present along with many other fine people. One son from this family, the Rev. R. L. Benton, now serves in the Methodist ministry. New Sunday school rooms were added in 1924. In 1951, the interior of the church was remodeled and redecorated. A new educational unit was added in 1955 to take care of a growing Sunday school.

This church, despite its relatively short life, claims five ministers who have gone out to serve the church. They are R. L. Benton, Delwyn Fryer, Marshall and Eugene Lovell of the Tennessee Conference, and Walter Mischke of the Memphis Conference.

The church with its 200 members is promoting a full program of activities.

JAMES F. SWINEY, JR., *Pastor*

LONG BRANCH

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The date of organization for the first Methodist church in the Long Branch community is unknown to the author, but the church was first called Hopewell. In 1902 this church was so badly damaged by flood waters that it was relocated on higher ground, and a new frame building was erected. A few years later the new building was severely damaged by a storm, but it was repaired and continues to be used. This new church was called New Hopewell. It is located about one-half mile up Long Branch to the left of the road between Center Hill Dam and Lancaster.

B. M. HARNESS, *Pastor*

FREDONIA

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Fredonia Methodist Church was organized in 1903 with Rev. G. W. Allen as its first pastor. There were about twenty charter members prior to 1903. Church had been held each week by circuit riders of any denomination in the log school house. The present church was built in 1911 on a tract of land which was bought for eight dollars. There has been one member of the Fredonia congregation to enter the ministry—Ray Brown. Mr. Brown left The Methodist Church, and is now a Baptist minister. Today there are eighty-nine persons registered as members of Fredonia Church. There is an average Sunday school attendance of thirty.

ERNEST CASHDOLLAR, *Pastor*

ANNIE MORRISON SMITH MEMORIAL

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

The Annie Morrison Smith Memorial Methodist Church, 214 Main Street, Nashville, Tennessee, was dedicated September 20, 1903. Its origins rooted in the concern of Tulip Street Methodist Church, which liberally contributed money and leadership to its development and support.

Originally located on the second floor of a store at Woodland and Second Streets, the church was moved to its present situation when Mr. George T. Stubbs and Mr. Horace C. Smith made gifts leading to the construction of the building now occupied by the congregation. Mr. Stubbs donated the first \$500 for the church's work, while Mr. Smith purchased its lot on Main Street at a cost of \$1,200. He deeded the lot to the trustees of the Tulip Street Church in honor of his wife, on condition that the chapel be named after her.

Across the years, Annie Morrison Smith Memorial Church has survived fires, tornados, and floods. It has also survived barren periods, the most recent of which has been overcome in the last ten years through the interest and activity of the Nashville Methodist Layman's Club and the City Board of Missions.

In 1953-54, a new educational building including a parsonage was constructed by new converts won to Christ by the Annie Morrison Smith Memorial Church.

DOUGLAS F. BROWN, *Pastor*

SOUTH TUNNEL

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

On September 4, 1904, a class was organized in a grove near South Tunnel, Sumner County. They appointed Albert Hardy class leader and steward. Rev. Fisher was pastor.

On October 16, 1904, the little congregation decided to build a house of worship thirty by forty feet, to be dedicated to the services of Almighty God. They bought the ground and made the deed to a board of trustees: Albert Hardy, William McWhirter, J. J. Greer, W. H. O'Dell, S. P. Taylor and H. A. Ligon.

Built at a cost of \$629, the church was dedicated on June 17, 1905 by J. T. Curry, presiding elder. The membership, then just eighteen, is now thirty-four.

The original building, which stands by Bushes Chapel Road, South Tunnel, is still in use.

RUSSELL E. LINDSAY, *Pastor*

LITTLE CRAB

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Little Crab, which was a former Methodist Episcopal Church, was organized in 1904. It was organized in a congenial atmosphere for there were many Methodists in this area who were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It was not difficult with unification to become a congregation in The Methodist Church. Rev. J. B. Dickens was the first pastor and since him the following served as pastors: John Wesley St. John, J. A. Coleman, Hartley Pastor, J. W. Roberts, Presley Peters, B. M. Harness, L. P. Reader, John G. Pitmon, C. M. Turner, J. R. Clateon, J. W. Adkins, Noble Peavyhouse, B. H. Parker, J. W. Brooks, Robert S. Lee, and Harlon Dalton.

The church has a total membership of eighty and about fifty in the Sunday school and it pays the pastor's salary of \$200 and other financial obligations in full. The building is valued at \$1,600.

J. H. BROWN, *Pastor*

OAKWOOD

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

Seeing the need for a church in the Oakwood community of Joelton, a Methodist by the name of D. J. Johns started a movement for the organization and construction of a Methodist church. For a year or longer services were held in "brush-arbors" during warm weather. During rainy and cold weather services were held in tobacco barns over the community.

The ground on which the church was built was given by G. W. Bracy. In the spring of 1905 the cornerstone laying ceremony was held, and that fall the church was ready for services with a full-time preacher. Rev. R. M. Holland was the first preacher for the newly built church, and in October of 1905 eighteen persons made up the charter roll by joining Oakwood, given this name because of the many oak trees surrounding the building.

For many years the preachers were really "Circuit Riders" for they rode horses, buggies, and even bicycles to fill the appointments of the four churches making up the Oakwood Circuit, so-called in honor of the youngest church on the charge.

Oakwood Church has been in three districts, Clarksville, Gallatin, and at present Cumberland. Five Sunday school rooms were added to the church in 1929 under the able inspiration of the pastor, Rev. G. L. Hensley. In 1932 the people had a new District, Cumberland, a new charge, Joelton, and a new preacher, Rev. A. J. Bunn.

This church was fifty years old in October, 1955. In its comparatively short life the church has had twenty-eight pastors. The membership is nearly one hundred and fifty. It has served the community well.

DOYLE MASTERS, *Pastor*

LAFAYETTE

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

About fifty years ago, through the efforts of Mrs. R. A. Bridges and her daughter, Mrs. W. E. Carter, the Lafayette Southern Methodist Church was organized. It held its services for a short time in the church belonging to the Northern Methodist Conference, which property the Southern Methodist later purchased.

Among the charter members were: Mrs. R. A. Bridges, Mrs. W. E. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Oglesby, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Rose, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Cunningham, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hall, and Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Hargis.

Rev. J. L. Smotherman was the first pastor; other early pastors were Rev. J. D. Hewgley, Rev. E. U. Robinson and Rev. P. B. Freeman.

The Church organized a Sunday school with Mr. J. A. Rose as superintendent and Mrs. W. E. Carter as organist.

The church was destroyed by fire in June, 1935, most of the furnishings being saved. With the proceeds of the insurance policy and aid from the Church Extension Board the present building was completed in 1936.

Preaching services were held monthly and this little group labored faithfully, adding a few members to its roll each year until 1945, when we asked the Annual Conference to make our church a station. The first station pastor was Rev. J. Stanley Gwinn who was ably assisted by his wife in promoting all church activities; under this direction Fellowship meetings were held monthly.

In the fall of 1949, the men of the church were invited to join the Layman's Club of the Cumberland District who had already chosen as their project the promotion of a county wide revival and tent meeting to be held in Lafayette.

During the month of June, Dr. Harry Denman, a noted evangelist, conducted a two weeks revival which resulted in many conversions and several additions to the church; he was assisted by Rev. Don E. Howell, the pastor, who had served the church for three years and under whose leadership the church grew stronger each year.

In 1950 the church, with assistance from the Layman's Club, purchased a parsonage from Mrs. Dona Sullivan. The first pastor to



Lafayette

occupy it was Rev. Hugh V. Ferguson who came to us from North Carolina. He became pastor in September, 1950, which was his first pastorate. He was associate pastor of Elm Street, in Nashville, for one year.

In the fall of 1952 Rev. G. C. McIlwain came to Lafayette from a five year pastorate at Baxter, Tennessee. With his encouragement and leadership the church has moved to a new location and is soon to be in a new church in an ideal location. The building site deeded to the church by one of our members, Mrs. Dona Sullivan and son William Hall Sullivan, whose vision of the church need and a capacity to meet that need resulted in our having one of the most lovely churches in these parts. A cut of the church will be found on a separate page. Thanks to all who have made this achievement possible. We are sure there are great things ahead for the Methodists here.

G. C. McILWAIN, *Pastor*

BIG ROCK

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The grounds for the Big Rock Methodist Church was deeded by S. W. Guinn to the trustees: J. S. Smith, who is still an active member, C. P. Edwards, M. F. Brandon, J. P. Pryor, and J. W. Smith, on March 25, 1903. The original building was built largely by timber contributed by M. F. Brandon, the labor of the original members, and money contributions solicited and collected by J. N. Griffin, who is one of the present members of the church. The finished carpentry work was done by Jack Wall and Sandy Wall. The building was completed and the church was organized in 1905. The building was dedicated in 1907.

The original membership came largely from Burrs Chapel, Duck Spring, and old Wyatts Chapel, which this church replaced. The Rev. P. G. Johnson was the first pastor, and Rev. A. E. Clement was the first presiding elder.

This building served its purpose in the community for about forty years. Then a need was felt for a more modern building with Sunday school rooms, so on Tuesday morning, June 28, 1948, work was begun on removing the former building. The work on the present building was begun July 15, 1948. On October 24, 1948, the first service was held in the new building. Together with money received when the Government bought the Duck Spring church property which is at present in the Fort Campbell area, and donations made by members, former pastors, and other interested individuals, the church building was completed with no debt and was dedicated

June 26, 1949, with Rev. J. T. Majors, a former pastor, delivering the dedicatory sermon. The pastor at that time was Rev. George O. Douglas; the district superintendent was the Rev. C. B. Cook.

The present district superintendent is Rev. H. T. Tipps. The membership is 144.

DELWYN FRYER, *Pastor*

BRUSH CREEK

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

The first Methodist church to be organized in Brush Creek, Tenn., was in 1906. It was organized with thirty-three members. Previous to the organization of this Methodist church, there was a building where this congregation had been worshipping for fifteen years. Of these thirty-three members the following are still living: Mrs. Etta Allan, Mrs. Walter Gwaltney, Mrs. Ed Davis and Miss Ida Davis. Rev. Geo. N. Nackles was the first pastor. There are now seventy-two members of the church.

JAMES M. DAVIS, *Pastor*

CRAGGIE HOPE

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

In 1906, W. P. and Lucy Parker gave the land for a Methodist church. The first trustees were George Anderson and J. H. Thompson. The new church was probably dedicated in 1911 during the pastorate of Rev. B. J. Rochelle. Rev. J. Allison Molloy was Presiding Elder of the Dickson District in which the church was located at that time. Rev. R. R. Langston entered the ministry from this congregation. The church membership was never large and is only twenty-nine at the present time.

DALY THOMPSON, JR., *Pastor*

EAGLEVILLE

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The Eagleville Methodist Church was started when a group of the members of the Greenwood Methodist Church decided to move the church to Eagleville in 1907. This was not agreeable with all the members. Approximately six men and their families came to Eagleville to worship. The church was dedicated in 1912 by Rev. Waite. The church was organized by Mr. Henning Hughes, Mr. Matt Hughes, Mr. O. Z. Floyd, Mr. Jones Floyd, Mr. Will Kelly, Mr.

Will Bailey, and Mrs. Tip McCord. The membership at time of organization included fifteen or twenty more or less.

The original location was on the Shelbyville highway. The church was moved to the present location in 1942. Sunday school space was built in 1942, 1948, and in 1954. This indicates the steady growth of the church since its organization forty-five years ago. The church now has 148 members and the average attendance is about 100.

LESTER B. NAVE, *Pastor*

BORDEAUX

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

In the summer of 1906, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Nelson, L. M. Lewis, Mrs. Emmet Hyde, Mrs. Wee Hyde, Mr. Cantrell, Mrs. Maggie Zerlott, Miss Mary Stevens, C. E. Dever and probably others, organized a Sunday school in the school building. In the fall the Sunday school was moved to a store building on the corner of Hydes Ferry Road and Hamilton Road, North. It became necessary for the Sunday school to move again at which time it was moved to a barn owned by Mr. Wee Hyde which stood on the corner of Hydes Ferry Road and the County Hospital Road. Since our Lord was born in a barn the Sunday school could afford to hold its sessions in a barn.

The Lord blessed the new Sunday school to such an extent that in 1908 a church building became imperative. Rev. E. M. Harrell who was pastor of Monroe Street and North Nashville Mission, in 1907, donated a building lot at 3400 Hydes Ferry Road. Upon this lot a one-room building was erected largely by donated labor. Mr. L. A. Nelson who had been with the Sunday school since its beginning served as supervisor of the building. Rev. J. M. Patterson and Rev. John Nelson who were students in the Theological Department of Vanderbilt assisted, without pay, in the erection of the building, and also conducted services for the congregation. When Mr. Patterson was sent to China as a missionary the Bordeaux Methodist Church supported his work as a "Mission Special."

The church has only had three Sunday school superintendents—Mr. Elvis Drake was elected when the school was organized in 1906; Mr. L. A. Nelson became superintendent when the congregation occupied the new church building in 1908; Mr. E. D. Chappell succeeded Mr. Nelson and has served until the present time. (Miss Mary Stevens who was one of the first Sunday school pupils in 1906, became the mother of Mrs. E. D. Chappell.)

Following are a few achievements in the growth of the church: During the pastorate of Rev. A. R. Gibbons, 1927-30, four Sunday

school rooms were erected. Two additional Sunday school rooms were added during the pastorate of Rev. Frank L. Hawkins in 1931 and 1932. Brother Hawkins did most of the carpenter work himself. The Sunday school was departmentalized when Rev. A. J. Davis was pastor in 1933-35. Bordeaux became a station during the pastorate of Rev. H. H. Austin, 1938-39. During the pastorate of Rev. Paul Williams, 1946-47, the nice one and one-half story brick parsonage was erected. Rev. Richard Whitworth was pastor 1948-52, during which time the new Educational Building was erected. The dwelling adjoining the church property was also purchased to be used for the Nursery, Beginners, and Intermediate departments.

The church is promoting a full program of activities which includes a W.S.C.S., M.Y.F., active official board and other activities. There are about 450 church members with the Sunday school enrollment of 300.

HASKEL HENRY, *Pastor*

LORETTO

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The Loretto Methodist Church was organized in 1908. The Building Committee was composed of J. Allen Littrell, W. W. Belew, T. J. Jones. There were twenty-five charter members. The land was purchased from Leon Jolly by W. W. Belew and was deeded to the Methodist church and the Masonic Lodge.

In 1954, the Methodist church sold its interest in the building to the Masonic Lodge and erected a new church building in a new location on Depot Street and West Point Road. The new building and furnishings cost \$25,000.00. The membership at the present time is 221 and growing. Early pastors of this church were Rev. John Gibson, Rev. Ben Matthews, and Rev. Jack Staggs.

J. C. ELKINS, *Pastor*

HILLSBORO (Williamson County)

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

According to early members of this church, three men were chiefly responsible for its beginning. These men were John Meacham, Will Fulton, and P. Hassell. However, there were many others who were active in its beginning, including Dr. C. A. Moore, Charlie Locke, Q. M. Hughes, Lem Parker, Sam Locke, Jim McPherson, and the first trustees.

The lot where the church now stands was purchased from the

Meacham grantors and released to John Meacham, Jim Corder, P. Hassell, Frank Rodgers, C. M. Cook, C. G. Gray, and J. L. Cook, the first trustees. The deed is dated September 12, 1910.

Hillsboro Church joined the Bethlehem Circuit and sent members to the first Quarterly Conference held December 31, 1910. Today the church is on the Hillsboro Circuit, which includes four other churches—Green's Chapel, Fernvale, Pleasant Ridge, and Pleasant Valley.

This church has been blessed with dedicated pastors and laymen. The first pastor was R. S. Tinnon and Kenneth Bohannon is the present pastor. The church school has progressed under able superintendents, including Q. M. Hughes, Ewen Poynor, C. B. Wilson, Otto Green, and Bill McClain. The present trustees are Mrs. A. C. Lehew, Otto Green, and J. M. Pewitt.

Ninety-one names are on the church record, and the members are presently engaged in a Visitation Evangelism Program which is carrying the "Good News" to those who do not know Christ.

CLEO MANGRUM, *Historian*

BELMONT

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Dr. J. L. Cuninggim, who conceived the idea of the Correspondence School of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was president of the Nashville Methodist Union when Belmont Methodist Church was organized. Following is his own story of the organization of this great church: "I met a small group of men who were interested in the proposed church at the home of Harry Murrey, 2400 21st Avenue South, on Sunday afternoon in the spring of 1910. I do not recall the names of all who were present at this first meeting, but I do remember the following: H. P. Murrey, Battle Clark, C. F. Brittain, and Mr. McWhirter (of McWhirter & Weaver). We discussed the need of a new church in the vicinity of Acklen Avenue, which we thought would likely be a center of the future population in this area, and agreed that a church should be organized. Following this meeting we had several conferences and meetings. As our plans progressed the necessary committees were appointed. The committee on location secured the promise of the owners to sell a full block fronting on Acklen Avenue between 20th and 21st Avenues. The price of the property was fair and it was approved by those interested. Also a committee had been appointed to secure funds for a temporary building to be erected on the lot.

"At a later meeting held in the home of Mr. Battle Clark it was

reported that the owners of the property on Acklen Avenue refused to let us have the property. We were greatly disappointed and disgusted. In the emotion of the moment, a motion was made and adopted that the effort to build the church be abandoned and the money collected be returned to the donors. Following this action and at the same meeting, when the feeling of resentment had somewhat blown off, it was suggested that the refusal of certain ones to sell their property had not in any way affected the need for the new church. After discussion, the former hasty action was rescinded and it was decided to seek a compromise with the owners, whereby we might secure the corner of Acklen and 21st Avenue, or about half what we wanted. This plan succeeded and the lot was bought, and soon thereafter a temporary building was erected."

In July, 1910, Belmont Methodist Church was organized with thirty-four charter members. The temporary frame building was immediately occupied. Rev. N. Burch Tucker, a student in the Theological Department of Vanderbilt University, under appointment of Rev. H. B. Reams, Presiding Elder of the Nashville District, became the first pastor. In 1916 the Sunday school building facing Hillsboro Road was occupied and used for both church services and Sunday school purposes for ten years. The present sanctuary, facing Acklen Avenue, was erected in 1929. It has a seating capacity of 1,100. The first unit of the educational plant on the corner of Twentieth and Acklen Avenues was completed in 1951. In August, 1955, the last two units of the building program were completed.

The church now occupies an entire city block. The plant provides



Belmont Church Plant

facilities to meet the total needs of the religious life—worship, instruction, social and recreation. The church membership as of August, 1955, was 3,139, with an average attendance in the church school of 1,057. A full paid staff is maintained.

JOHN W. RUSTIN, *Pastor*

NEPTUNE

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The Neptune Methodist Church was organized October 16, 1911, by Rev. Hogg, pastor of Clifton Methodist Church. Services were held in the Neptune schoolhouse until a building could be erected. The new building was dedicated on October 20, 1914, by Dr. W. W. Pinson.

In April, 1915, a windstorm destroyed the building, but it was immediately rebuilt.

Until 1942 Neptune was on the Ashland City Circuit. At that time it was placed on the Pleasant View Circuit. In 1950 it was placed with Clifton, making a two-point work called Clifton-Neptune Charge.

The pastors, their dates of service, and number of additions to the church are: J. W. Farris, 1911-12, sixty additions; P. D. Freeman, 1912-15; L. Hosale, 1915-19, eleven additions; P. G. Johnson, 1919-21, eighteen additions; J. M. Putnam, 1921-23, twenty-three additions; Rev. Walkup, 1923-24 (died on July 26, 1924); Tom C. Lackey, 1924-26, two additions; J. S. Rice, 1926-29, seven additions; F. G. Dickson, 1929-34, seventeen additions; J. F. Swiney, 1934-37, twenty-two additions; C. P. Givens, 1937-38 (died on May 1, 1938); Russell Boaz, 1938, five additions; J. W. Beesley, 1938-40, four additions; J. N. Wilson, 1940-42, sixteen additions; Rev. Lantrip, 1942-43; T. C. Adams, 1943-45; W. E. Cowser, 1945-48, three additions; Jack Sides, 1948-50, three additions; J. E. Stavely, 1950-53; Daly Thompson, Jr., 1953-54, six additions.

J. F. Nicholson was the first Sunday school superintendent, who served in that capacity for approximately twenty years.

WENDELL MEGGS, *Pastor*

SPRING HILL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Spring Hill Methodist Church was organized in 1911 in the old Dickson District on land donated by J. W. Parchman. It was a one-

room building with preaching services monthly. The church was dedicated in 1912 with fifty members. The Bishop was John C. Kilgo, the Presiding Elder was J. Allison Molloy, and the pastor was T. B. Fisher. It was a great day. The church grew steadily through the years and the "Summer Sunday school" began an ever green institution.

Preparation was begun in 1950 for a larger and more adequate church building. Actual construction started in 1951 which resulted in a beautiful building. The sanctuary is beautiful and worshipful, full-size basement, six classrooms, well lighted with adequate heating facilities. The mercy seat is made of wild cherry according to the specifications found in Exodus 25:17-22. The communion table is made of wild cherry and beautifully finished. Rev. Luke Fuqua was pastor when the new church was erected. The new building was opened with a revival meeting which resulted in the conversion of some of the strongest workers in the church today. Bishop Roy Short, with the assistance of the District Superintendent, H. T. Tipps, and the pastor, Leo Parker, dedicated the church in October, 1954, free of all indebtedness.

The church membership has grown from fifty in 1912 to 150 at the close of 1954; the Sunday school has grown from a very small enrollment which only ran during the summer months in 1912 to 159 with an average attendance of 100. The Friday night prayer meeting has an average attendance of fifty. The Lord is blessing Spring Hill Church, for which we are grateful, and our prayer is that the members will continue to grow in Christ and lead many to the Lord.

WILSON CAREY, *Historian*

CUMBERLAND FURNACE

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Cumberland Furnace Methodist Church was organized in 1911 by the pastor, Rev. W. M. Martin, Mrs. R. B. Stone and others. There were thirty-five charter members. They worshiped for a few years in the schoolhouse up near the Episcopal Church.

The church was erected in 1913-14; we found no record of its dedication. Rev. Fred Harper, now in Durham, North Carolina pastor of a Methodist church and graduate of Duke University, was formerly a member of Cumberland Furnace Church.

We are granting license to preach to William Harris this conference year. Present membership as reported in Journal in 1954 was 114.

J. C. ELLIOTT, *Pastor*

NEELYS BEND

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

On September 22, 1912, a Sunday school was begun in the home of Mr. John Cowley in Neelys Bend. Mr. Thomas McCampbell was chiefly responsible for this event, in which thirty-five people participated. On September 29, 1912, Mr. Lillard W. Lane organized this group into a Sunday school. Rev. E. W. Brown, then pastor of Donelson Methodist Church, conducted services every second Sunday afternoon thereafter until October, 1914, when Rev. E. B. Willis was appointed by the Annual Conference as pastor. At the following Conference Reverend Newton was sent, but only continued services for a few months.

The Neelys Bend Methodist Church, located on Neelys Bend Road between Hudson Road and Menees Lane, was reorganized on January 22, 1939, under the leadership of Rev. H. E. Baker, Rev. John Baggett and Rev. Richard Roe. Services were held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Sanders. A basement auditorium was soon built on a plot of land donated by Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Dillard. In this same year, 1939, Andrew Price Memorial Methodist Church in Donelson gave this new church a chancel complete with pulpit and furniture. Several years later five Sunday school rooms were added on the basement level. At present the church is still meeting in the basement auditorium but a new auditorium is being constructed on this long waiting foundation. The Sunday school is now under the very able leadership of Mr. John Herald Fox, and the church, which became a station in September, 1953, now has a membership of 110.

J. W. WHITE, JR., *Pastor*

MOODYVILLE

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Moodyville Methodist Church was organized in 1912 by Rev. Heartley. While we do not know the number of charter members, we know it was a small group of faithful souls. This church suffered like many in rural areas by members moving to industrial centers and elsewhere, and at times it has been very difficult to maintain an organization but it has kept going and has never sounded retreat. While it is a Methodist church, the building is used by the Baptist, Christian and others. It belongs to the Dale Hollow Parish.

J. H. BROWN, *Pastor*

WALNUT GROVE

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

The original Walnut Grove was a Cumberland Presbyterian Church and was located about four miles east of White House. Near the turn of the century, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church suffered a division over the question of unification. In 1909 a segment of the Walnut Grove congregation withdrew and formed a U.S.A. Presbyterian church and located on the Portland Road two miles east of White House. Dr. J. W. Smart gave an acre of land and Mr. Steven Griffin gave an acre for the cemetery. The newly formed U.S.A. congregation did not prosper and was without a pastor for several years.

In 1913, Rev. W. M. Martin, who was pastor of the Methodist Church in White House, conducted a revival meeting for the U.S.A. Presbyterian Church and as a result the entire membership united with the Methodist Church. Rev. T. E. Marshall was their first pastor. The charter members numbered about forty and among them were the following: Dr. J. W. Smart, J. I. Link, Miles White, Steve Griffin, M. T. Jackson, Nade Wilkinson, J. W. Kelly, Tarp Wilkinson, R. B. Ponds, Ben Woodard, and Billy Harrison.

The congregation recently spent between \$4,000.00 and \$5,000.00 for improvements which included hardwood floors, new pews, paneling, pulpit furniture, insulating and the installation of gas heat.

One member of this congregation entered the ministry of the Baptist Church—Rev. Cecil Lambreth. The present membership is 143.

R. E. STEVENSON, *Pastor*

WYATT'S CHAPEL

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Wyatt's Chapel Methodist Church had its beginning in 1914 when a Methodist church was established in the Big A School building. At that time most of the members who came into this church were from Rose Valley Methodist Church in the adjoining community. Rev. Justice was the pastor who organized the church and it was placed on the circuit with Rose Valley, Indian Mound, and some other churches. In 1918 the church came on the Big Rock Charge, the pastor being Rev. J. T. B. Cash.

In 1930 the present church was erected on land secured from J. W. Wyatt and wife. The trustees at that time were: T. G. Atkins, Ramie Smith, and Oscar Lewis. Rev. W. A. Bass was the pastor at the time the building was erected.

In 1952 an annex was built to the church, consisting of four Sunday school rooms and a basement. The basement is not yet completed. The present membership is 253.

DELWYN FRYER, *Pastor*

RED HILL

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Red Hill Methodist Church was organized in 1915. The organization was held in an old schoolhouse in which services were conducted for several years. The present building was designed, erected and dedicated in 1940 during the pastorate of B. M. Harness. Rev. John Durrett was the District Superintendent. The church is not far from Jamestown and nearly two miles off Highway 28.

W. C. MASSENGALE, *Pastor*

ARDMORE

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

In 1916 Mrs. D. W. Buchanan gathered a group of children and organized a Sunday school under a brush arbor. This was the beginning of what is now Ardmore Methodist Church. The Baptist congregation was kind enough to let the Methodists worship in their church for four or five years.

This body of Methodists was first placed on the Blanche Circuit in 1918 with W. V. Jarrett, District Superintendent of the Fayetteville District. At different times our church has also been a member of the North Alabama Conference, and a part of both the Elkton and Prospect Circuits.

Among the first pastors who were instrumental in starting the building, now valued at \$40,000.00, were C. B. Cook and Willard Blue. The lots on which the church is located were donated by Mrs. D. W. Buchanan and Alex Austin. In 1953 Mrs. Elizabeth Hamlett and A. C. Austin gave to their church their shares of the adjoining lot. The remaining part was bought by the Young Adult Class.

To start the ball rolling, Jim Elliott, Alex Austin, and Pastor C. B. Cook canvassed the community and obtained \$6,000.00 the first day. In addition to the money more than 25,000 feet of lumber were donated. Although the cornerstone was laid in 1923, the building was not completed for several years. During part of the time, the congregation worshiped in the high school building.

Among the early families who made possible the Ardmore Meth-

odist Church were Hargroves, Elliotts, Bottoms, Parkers, Downings, Rogers, Seslers, Wallaces, the Dr. Woodards, Browns, Mullins, Mitchells, Faulkinberrys, Douthitts, and Austins.

In the early days the Ladies' Aid contributed much by selling ice cream, having hen showers and bazaars, and helping with barbecues. It has been said that every brick in the front columns represents an ice cream cone.

In 1950 Ardmore became a station, with Laws Parks as pastor, assisted by his father, Rev. Sam Parks. The following year \$6,000.00 parsonage was bought.

The church has grown steadily from twenty members in 1916 to 155 members in 1955. Accordingly, the salary of the pastor has increased from \$250.00 per year then to \$250.00 per month now. Among recent improvements are thirteen memorial windows and a lighted cross. All the Sunday classes, the W.S.C.S. and the M.Y.F. give untiringly of their time and efforts to improve the church.

Our Sunday school has an enrollment of 140, with Lofton Lewter as superintendent for the past twenty years.

We would like to pay tribute to the forefathers of our church who had the vision and courage to begin a structure of which we are very proud. Few of the younger generation realize the hard work that was necessary in order that we in the year 1955 might enjoy the lovely sanctuary in which we worship. May we be true to the memory of those who made it possible.

E. M. TRAMEL, *Pastor*

FREDONIA

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Fredonia Methodist Church was established in October, 1917, by Rev. J. C. Crocker, who was a very colorful local preacher of the old-time variety, who served as supply pastor for many years. When the church was organized, Dr. William H. Johnston was Presiding Elder of the Murfreesboro District. There were twenty-seven charter members. Of the original members, only seven are living and only one of the seven is connected with the church today. For seven years the congregation worshiped in a schoolhouse. In 1924 the present church building was erected during the pastorate of Rev. Charles Cunningham. There are only twenty members on the church roll and of this number only ten are active. Old age and sickness prevent the others from regular church attendance. While the congregation is small it is loyal to The Methodist Church.

MRS W. H. DEBERRY, *Historian*

BISHOPS CHAPEL

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

Bishops Chapel is a small congregation on the St. Joseph Circuit in the Mount Pleasant District. It was organized in 1917 with ten charter members. The First World War was getting under way and it was a gloomy time. Boys were going into the service and the people felt in a peculiar way the need of God and expression was given to this need in the organization of a Methodist church. Mr. Aleck Bishop donated the land for the new church. At the present time there are eighty-five members.

J. C. ELKINS, *Pastor*

ST. JOSEPH

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

Prior to 1918, preachers of different denominations conducted from time to time services in this predominantly Roman Catholic community in the public school building. Occasionally short-term Sunday schools were conducted in the schoolhouse. In 1918 Mr. Robert L. Bryan moved to St. Joseph. He soon became a leader who was able to mobilize the scattered Protestants into a permanent group. A large poorly constructed church building was erected which gave the Sunday school and religious services a permanent home. The Methodists being in the majority, the new church was organized as St. Joseph Methodist Church. The new Methodist church was added to the Loretto Circuit with Rev. B. F. Argo as pastor. Charter members were as follows: Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Bryan, Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Bryan, Blanche Bryan, Vera Bryan, Marvin Bryan, Mabel Bryan, Mrs. Ed. Myrick, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Tidwell, Mr. and Mrs. James Grimes, D. L. Adkinson, Lucile Adkinson, Mrs. Willie A. Killen, Mrs. Maude Killen, Mrs. Sallie Gilbert, Mrs. Lillie W. Gray, Mrs. Carrie G. Stutts, Mrs. Frances Ethredge, Myrtle Ethredge, Martha C. Ethredge, Mrs. Tina Maye Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Killen, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Davis.

Preliminary plans were made in 1941 during the pastorate of Rev. R. A. Gibbons to erect a new modern church building. Not until after the World War was preliminary work resumed for a new building. In 1945, during the pastorate of Rev. Ernest Blessing, a beautiful modern brick building was erected. It was dedicated free of debt by Bishop Paul B. Kern Easter, 1947. A new brick parsonage was also erected on the adjoining lot. Total cost for both church and

parsonage was \$25,000.00. A new electric organ was installed in 1954. The church has now 272 members and is steadily making progress.

J. C. ELKINS, *Pastor*

WESLEY'S CHAPEL (Hardin Co.)

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The Wesley's Chapel Methodist Church was organized Wednesday night, October 2, 1918, by the Rev. W. J. Wilson and a group of twenty-eight charter members, all received by certificate. Rev. R. J. Tucker was the first pastor.

The first church building was a large one-room frame structure located five miles east of Lawrenceburg on the Wesley's Chapel road halfway between the Pulaski Highway and the Fall River Road. A plot of ground, three acres, was donated by Mr. A. S. Beard for the church and cemetery. This building was constructed by the first members.

The church grew and the members felt the need of remodeling and more room for Sunday school classes. Four new rooms were added to the back, forming an ell on each side.

In 1950 the building was made a brick veneer with stained-glass windows on the same location. The money to complete the building project was raised by the "God's-Acre Plan" and a liberal donation from a very devoted Christian member, Mr. A. S. Beard, now deceased.

There were many improvements made in the interior of the church—new altar, new chancel rail with kneeling pad, new communion table, new pews, new hardwood floor, aisle runner, redecoration of the walls and ceiling and many others—to make the church more worshipful.

The church's future plans are to install a central heating system and landscaping the lawn.

During the lifetime of the Wesley's Chapel Church, it has received a large number of members, many by certificate and many by profession of faith, from its successful summer revivals.

JOHN C. HIGHT, *Pastor*

ARNOLD'S CHAPEL

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The work at Arnold's Chapel goes back to November, 1919. Inspiration for the organization of this church came in part as the result of a tent revival held by the Rev. Burley Arnold in which

seventy-five professions of faith were made. Along with these, the memberships of Gentry's Chapel and Pleasant Valley were consolidated. And in 1922 a new brick veneer church was built on a more central location three miles south of Baxter. The Rev. Burley Arnold died before the church was finished. But shortly after organization the membership of the new church passed the one hundred mark.

B. M. HARNESS, *Pastor*

FREEMANS CHAPEL

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

Freemans Chapel Methodist Church was organized in Mars Hill schoolhouse in 1921 by Rev. A. J. Freeman. Services for several years were held in the schoolhouse before the church was built. G. W. Tingle donated the first \$100.00 to build the church and construction was completed in 1933. Since that time Sunday school rooms have been added.

There has been only one wedding in the church since its construction: Syble Mink to Robert Spain in 1947. In the same year Robert was called to the ministry and served his first charge at Collinwood. Harold Tingle was converted under the preaching of G. W. Stem and began preaching July 23, 1940. Rev. Tingle has received into the church during his ministry 170 people. He is now at Chattanooga, Tennessee. Glenn Bonner has also been called to the ministry from Freemans Chapel. He began his ministry at the Clarksrange Charge in the Cookeville District.

The charter membership of Freemans Chapel was forty-two. Several members were admitted following unification in 1940. The membership has now grown to eighty-five.

Many improvements have been made since the church was erected. Recently a gas heating system was installed throughout the church, and in 1954 a new tile floor was laid in the sanctuary and an altar rail installed.

JOHN C. HIGHT, *Pastor*

CENTER

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

About the year 1922 the church was organized in the community schoolhouse. Some of the first members were McCords, Lindseys, Laney, Knotts, and Rivers.

In 1925 Will Long gave an acre of land located twelve miles northwest of Lawrenceburg in the Center community for a church build-

ing. The building was started in the summer of 1926 and was ready for use in a few weeks. The trustees at that time were J. E. Lindsey, M. L. McCord, and J. H. Knott.

Some of the ministers during the early years of the church were Ben Jones, W. J. Fesmire, Proctor, Roberts, and Weaver.

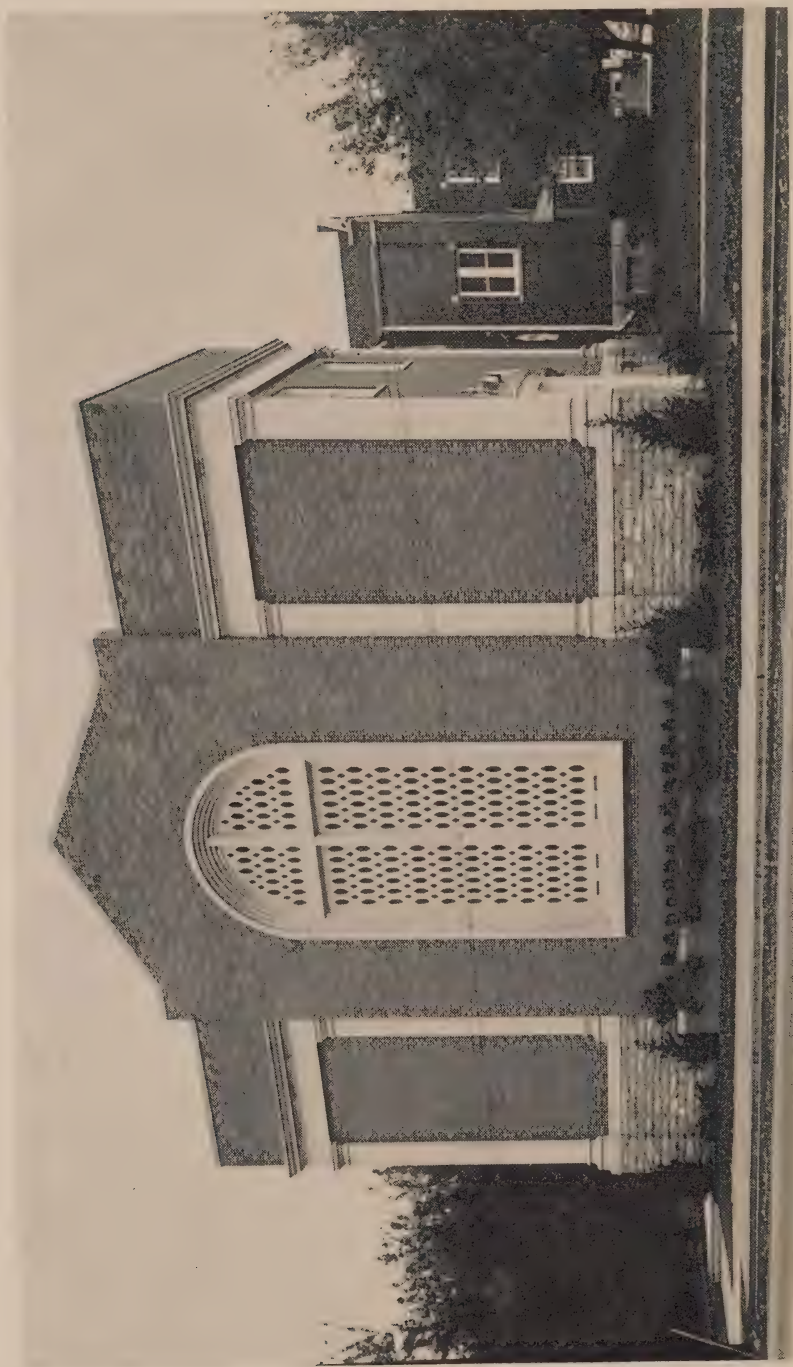
The church has been in continuous service since that time. A. J. Irvin is the minister at the present time.

A. J. IRVIN, *Pastor*

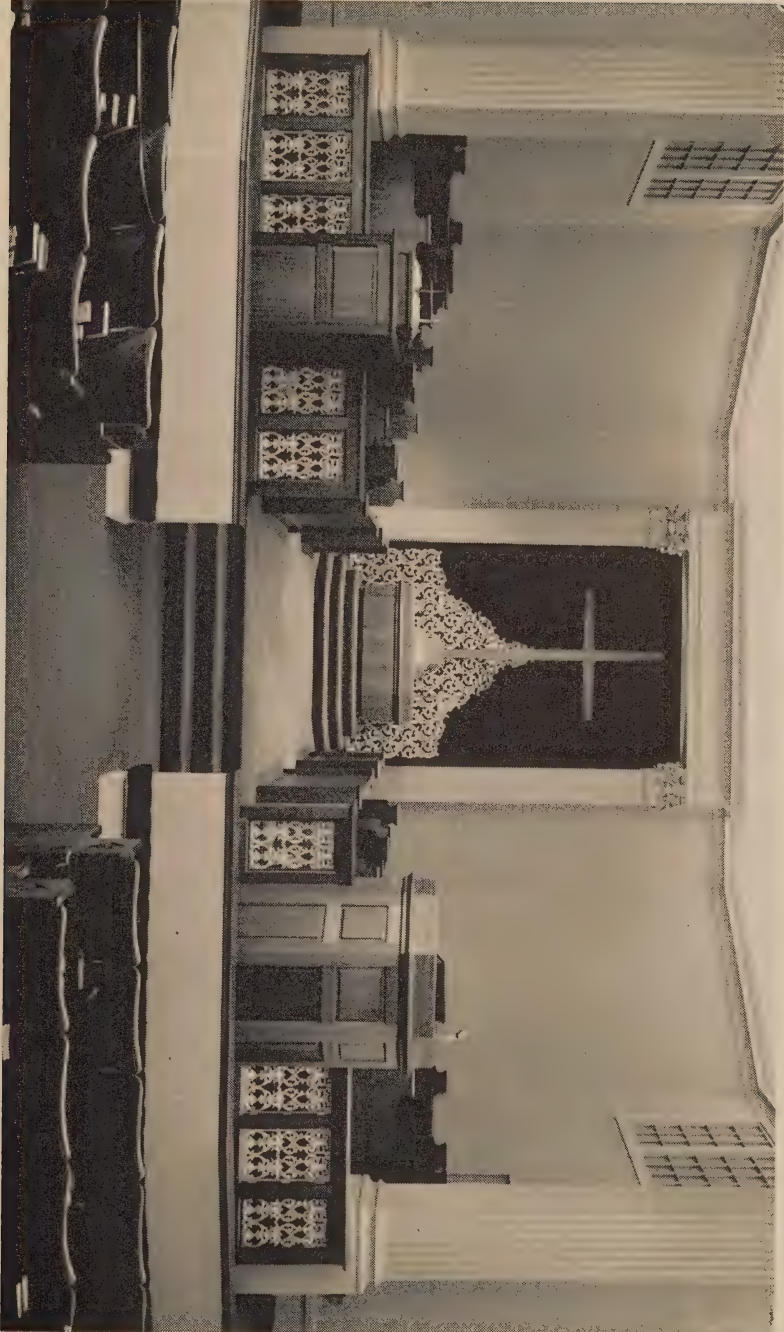
INGLEWOOD

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

The Sunday school of Inglewood Methodist Church was organized in a vacant store November 25, 1923. The church was organized in the spring of 1924. There were fifty-two charter members. The Sunday school had seventy-two members at the time of organization. Rev. W. T. Nolen was first pastor. The church moved from its temporary place of meeting in the store to its present site at the corner of Gallatin and Ben Allen Roads in 1924. The congregation worshiped for sixteen years in the basement of a building which was completed in 1940 during the pastorate of Rev. C. B. Cook. A church building was erected under the leadership of the Rev. E. C. Shelton in 1948. In 1954, during the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Lantrip, it became necessary to enlarge the sanctuary. The congregation worshiped for the first time in a beautiful air-conditioned church that could accommodate 300 more worshipers on Easter Sunday, April 10, 1955. Membership of Inglewood Church has grown from fifty-two members to approximately 1,700 in 1955. The budget for 1955-56 is \$69,407.42, which includes \$17,183.28 to be applied on the building debt. The church school continues to grow, which will probably necessitate erection of another educational building in a few years. Inglewood Church sponsored the organization of Dalewood Methodist Church in 1950, contributing \$2,000.00 for purchase of a lot and a number of its members to establish a new church in that rapidly growing section. Rev. and Mrs. Walter Reitz, missionaries in Panama, were accepted as an Advance Special in 1953. Since 1923 the following ministers have served the church: T. W. Noland, John A. Randolph, R. J. Craig, E. B. Willis, S. W. Bratcher, C. C. Hinkle, C. B. Cook, Pickens Johnson, E. C. Shelton, Frank A. Calhoun and James W. Lantrip. Board chairmen have been: G. W. Alexander, Herbert W. Luton, Dr. D. L. Mumpower, H. L. Wise, G. W. Terry, Dr. Roger Burrus, Kent Sandidge, A. R. Worley, E. H. Sterry, L. M. Henshaw, W. C. McDaniel, J. E. Malone, E. E. Elam, H. M. Elam,



Inglenwood—Outside



Inglewood—Inside

and J. Loftis Caldwell. Church school superintendents since organization of the church have been Kent Sandidge, Herbert W. Luton and L. M. Henshaw. The present church staff includes Rev. James W. Lantrip, pastor; Dr. W. C. Frank, associate pastor; Rev. Vernon Dews, assistant pastor; Mrs. Herman J. Link, secretary; Mrs. D. L. Mumpower, financial secretary; Mrs. J. E. Johnson, organist; Mrs. Jameson Jones, director Chancel Choir; Mrs. Thomas A. Carruth, director Children's Choir; Clifford McRae, director Youth Choir; Mrs. Charles Schneider, nursery supervisor; Sam. A. Burgess, custodian; and Lettie Sweeney, maid.

MRS. HERMAN J. LINK, *Historian*

OLD HICKORY

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Before the days of the First World War, there was a section in Davidson County known as the Hadley Bend community which was peopled largely with Presbyterians. With the coming of the war and the Powder Plant many others came in and it became known as Jacksonville and later Old Hickory.

A community church was organized and the congregation met in the "Y" Building until it burned. Then its meeting place was the school building on the corner of Seventeenth and Cleve Streets. Following the war, the Nashville Industrial Corporation purchased the wartime village and in the next few years different churches organized their own congregations.

By 1925 the group in the community church was largely Methodist and in that year twenty-seven members were organized into the Old Hickory Methodist Church in a room of the new "Y" Building. W. H. Saxton was the pastor, T. C. Ragsdale the Presiding Elder and E. D. Mouzon the Tennessee Conference Bishop. In 1926 a ninety-nine-year lease was procured on the northwest corner of Thirteenth Street and Hadley Avenue, where construction was begun early in 1928. In August, 1929, the church auditorium was completed at a cost of \$30,000.00. Some of the funds were raised by appeals of the pastor throughout the Tennessee Conference. The first worship service in the new building was held on the first Sunday of September, 1929. Two months later Bishop H. M. DuBose dedicated the church. The cornerstone bears these names: W. H. Saxon, pastor; W. F. Dunn, contractor; building committee: Sam J. Moore, B. W. Melvin, F. R. Ritchison. 1928.

Among other prominent and active members were the Wards, Ritchisons, Vincents, Blantons, Derricks, Muligs, Matthews, Sylars, Dr. E. P. Johnson, Mrs. Nolan, and B. T. Wilson, who was the

first Sunday school superintendent. The women organized first into an Aid Society, then a W.M.S. and later a W.S.C.S. Among their early leaders were Mesdames Diehl, Reed, Moores, Maynard, Latimer, followed by many who to the present time compose an active membership of more than 100.

Improvements in the church building were made from time to time. The Church School Annex was built later in the years 1939 and 1949 and finished in 1954—a well-equipped plant capable of caring for the activities of its membership of 1,027 with an average Sunday attendance of 450 and an average Sunday school of 290.

The ministers serving the church have been: W. H. Saxton, 1925-30; B. F. Isom, 1930-31; John Durrett, 1931-32; Houston T. Allen, 1932-33; John Estes, 1933-37; E. U. Robinson, 1937-41; John O. Ensor, 1941-1945; H. H. Austin, 1945-48; J. F. Swiney, 1948-50; E. E. Walkup, 1950-53; and E. C. Shelton, 1953—.

Six young men have gone out from this church into full-time pastorates, and the Kingdom Builders Class is sponsoring a ministerial student, Ed Blackburn, at Duke University.

The church parsonage is at 1204 Birdsall Street. When the DuPont Company sold the village in 1949 this property, the church lot, 190 feet adjacent to it and an additional 170 feet for a parking lot, were deeded to the church. In 1952 another lot, the southwest corner of Hadley and Thirteenth, was bought as the site for a future parsonage.

At the present time the church is sponsoring the Vernon Avenue Mission, a project of the Commission on Missions.

E. C. SHELTON, *Pastor*

HIGHLAND

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The Highland Methodist Church was organized in January, 1925, by Rev. Blackwood. It is located approximately sixteen miles west of Lawrenceburg and twelve miles east of Waynesboro, Tennessee, on U.S. Highway No. 64. The land was given by the Bon Air Coal and Iron Corporation.

The membership at the time of organization was approximately ten members. The families which made up the organization were: Gobbells, Moores, Byrds, and Gowers.

The original building is still in use at the present time and the church has a membership of seventy-nine. Plans are being made to expand the facilities of the church by the addition of Sunday school rooms and construction will be under way in the near future.

A. J. IRVIN, *Pastor*

GRIMSLEY

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Grimsley Methodist Church was organized in 1929 by Rev. F. E. Denton, who was the first pastor. The building was constructed in 1928 and was dedicated to the work of the Lord the following year. It has occupied the same location since 1928.

There were fifteen members at the time of organization. At the present time there is a membership of sixty-five.

Rev. Chester Stephens, who became a member in 1942, has entered the ministry from this church. He is the present pastor of the Homestead Church near Crossville, Tennessee.

Four large classrooms have recently been added to the original building.

ROYAL WHEATON, *Pastor*

ST. MARK'S

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

St. Mark's Methodist Church, 1403 East Main Street, Murfreesboro, is the outgrowth of a plan formulated by Mr. Neal D. Frazier, who saw the need for a place of worship for the Methodist students attending Middle Tennessee State College and the residents of eastern Murfreesboro. A building was obtained on North Tennessee Boulevard and the Rev. James R. Cox was appointed pastor.

College Place Methodist Church was organized July 6, 1930, and the first sermon was preached by Dr. T. C. Ragsdale. Among the first members were Rev. and Mrs. E. M. Harrell, Mrs. James R. Cox, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Bumpus, Miss Sarah Bumpus, Mr. and Mrs. Neal D. Frazier, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Young, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Arnold, and Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Nichols.

Ministers who have served College Place and St. Mark's are J. Dallas Bass, Henry Adkins, Blaine Duncan, Tom Farr, Richard Roe, C. E. Hawkins, J. Paul Williams, and L. B. George. During the 1946-47 conference year the original building and the parsonage were sold and the present property purchased. In 1947 the name was changed to St. Mark's and the Rev. Ben C. Alexander was assigned as pastor. J. E. Broyles became pastor in 1951 and R. M. Johnson was appointed in 1953.

In 1948 about twenty families saw the need and possibilities; they moved their membership from First Methodist Church to St. Mark's. With their assistance the church was able to expand its program. The residence was remodeled to include a chapel and nine Sunday school rooms. A recreation building was added with four

additional rooms. In 1951 a lovely church of colonial architecture which seats 250 worshippers was completed. On May 1, 1955, there were 399 members on the church roll and funds are being raised to build a new parsonage.

Trustees: J. B. Heffin, Carl Hickerson, Sam Yeargan, Fred Kerr, E. C. Dittrick, Ellis Gray, Henry Harrell.

Stewards: Sanford Cox, Emory Guy, Elmer Elrod, Edward Mingle, Homer Jones, H. C. Moore III, Ralph Massey, Dr. S. C. Garrison, J. Amon Bilbrey, Robert Evans, Cecil Adam, Hilary Parker, Robert S. Overall, Robert Vaughn, Richard Hohn, T. S. McFerrin, Jr., Ralph Sutton, Lewis McCauley, C. B. Arnold, C. E. Morgan, Robert M. Richardson.

Superintendent of the Sunday school, Mrs. T. T. Martin.

President of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, Mrs. Lewis McCauley.

President of the Methodist Youth Fellowship, Miss Carol Ransom.
Church Lay Leader, Lloyd Stone.

Annual Conference Delegate (1955), T. T. Martin. Alternate,
Frank L. Ransom, Jr. R. M. JOHNSON, *Pastor*

LASCASSAS

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

In 1910, forty-four years ago, the Presbyterian Church organized a congregation and erected a building in Lascassas at a cost of \$7,000.00. The membership was small and in the course of time the decrease on account of death and removal was greater than the increase. Therefore, after several years the congregation decided to disband and sell the property. Dr. Dayton A. Dobbs, who was a pastor in Nashville and one of the leaders of the Presbyterian Church in the Nashville area, was in charge of closing the church and sale of the property. The sale was advertised and the property was sold at public auction for \$1,800.00. Mr. J. P. Percy was the high bidder.

Rev. Guy Hawkins, who was pastor of the Cainsville Circuit near by in 1930, in company with Mr. Percy, had a conference with Bishop Horace M. DuBose in Nashville in regard to converting the Lascassas property into a Methodist church. The Bishop was pleased with the building, environment and general outlook for a successful Methodist church. With his support and leadership the property was secured, placed in the Cainsville Circuit and Brother Hawkins became the first pastor in the summer of 1930.

At the Annual Conference in Gallatin, October 22, 1930, the Board of Church Extension made an appropriation of \$500.00 on

the purchase price of the Lascassas property and the local congregation and friends raised the balance. The congregation was duly organized into a Methodist church by the pastor and the Presiding Elder of the Lebanon District, Rev. T. W. Noland. There were fourteen charter members. Rev. Cullen T. Carter, Executive Secretary of the Conference Board of Education, organized the Sunday school prior to the meeting of the Annual Conference in Gallatin. The new Methodist church was dedicated by Bishop DuBose. By the Annual Conference of 1931, the church membership increased to forty-two and the Sunday school enrollment to seventy-five. By the Annual Conference of 1953 the church membership was 107.

Lascassas was placed at various times with the following pastoral charges: Cainsville Circuit, College Place in Murfreesboro (St. Mark's), and Stones River Circuit. Rev. Louis Johnson is the present pastor (1954).

MRS. LUCY DEMENT, *Historian*

CENTERTOWN

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Dr. Perry, a citizen of the Centertown community, who was a relative of Rev. H. B. Reams, was largely responsible for the organization of the Centertown Methodist Church. Rev. B. J. Duncan, who was Rural Extension Secretary of the Conference Board of Education, gave this project special attention and was largely responsible for the organization of the Sunday school, August 10, 1930. A garage was rented and used for church purposes for several years. Rev. Bruce Lyle, who was pastor of the McMinnville Methodist Church, conducted the first revival meeting soon after the organization of the church in the fall of 1930. Pleasant Hill, Hickory Grove and possibly one other decadent church disbanded and threw their interest and memberships in the new growing Methodist Church in Centertown. The church has a membership of 140 and seventy-five in Sunday school. The rented garage was supplanted with a new a new building in 1945. An addition was erected in 1954. Rev. R. C. Woodard is our pastor.

ARTHUR LORANCE, *Historian*

HOOVER'S GAP

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Old Mt. Olivet Methodist Episcopal Church, South, stood on the hill just north of Red Fox Camp. It was destroyed by fire about the year 1932. Upon invitation by the congregation of Hoover's Gap

Methodist Protestant Church, most of the congregation went there for services.

Soon afterward the churches were united and became the present Methodist Church. Later the Protestant building had to be torn down and moved to a new location due to widening and construction of Highway 41.

In the year 1936 the church was reorganized and given the name of "Hoover's Gap Methodist Church," with approximately forty-five members. Some deceased charter members are J. H. Hoover, Mrs. Bettie Hoover, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Carter, and others.

Some of the charter members now living are Mrs. Annie McKnight, Mrs. Alice Pruett, Mrs. A. T. Moore, Mrs. A. C. Frizzell, Mrs. L. P. Powell, Mrs. W. D. Lee, Mrs. C. L. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Drake, Elmer McKnight, E. R. Hoover, and S. M. Hoover, all of Route No. 2, Christiana, Tennessee, Mrs. Maude Kelton and Mrs. Allie Hoover, of Nashville, Tennessee.

The church has entered two young men into the ministry, the Reverends Leo Parker and Harry Agee.

Pastors who have served the present church are N. O. Allen, R. T. Moore, W. F. Burden, Virgil Tipps, Hugh Parsons, W. W. Owen, Alton Brown, Ralph Keolmay, R. T. Clifford, the present pastor, Carl Felker, and others.

The present membership, as of November 1955, is approximately sixty.

CARL G. FELKER, *Pastor*

WEST END (Shelbyville)

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The West End Methodist Church located on Baker Street in the suburbs of Shelbyville, Tennessee, had its beginning in 1934. The church lot was given by Mr. Rufus H. Smith in the name of the following trustees: George Overcast, Jake Thompson, Rufus Smith, Joe Hooker, and Joe Baker. The original frame building with its Sunday school rooms is still in use. Several active families in the church today are descendants of the original trustees. The present church membership is eighty-five.

STANLEY HENLEY, *Pastor*

GREER'S CHAPEL

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Greer's Chapel Methodist Church is located on Highway 28 midway between Albany, Kentucky, and Jamestown, Tennessee. The

church was organized in 1939 when Rev. H. H. Bixler was pastor. It has a total membership of 113. It was organized the year of unification and has a fine future.

W. C. MASSENGALE, *Pastor*

SAVANNAH-EAST END

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

In the fall of 1939 a small group of men in the community conceived the idea of a church in this end of town. A survey of Hamilton Park and Mabryville was made to see how many were interested. It was found that 150 people would like a church on the corner of Hamilton Park school grounds. They purchased the land from the school board for about \$300.00.

Just before Conference a meeting was called under the trees on the lot and Rev. W. F. Bedford, pastor of Savannah Circuit, organized the church. There were thirteen charter members. The name East End was suggested and accepted.

At Conference the church was moved to the Barnhill Circuit and Rev. H. T. Fowler came as pastor.

Funds were solicited and the building of the church started under the direction of Mr. Will McFalls. While the building was under construction, services were held in the home of Mr. Will Franks. Mr. Franks was the first church school superintendent.



Savannah—East End

The following pastors served: Rev. Lexie Freeman and Rev. DeRamus. The church was dedicated in 1941 by Bishop Kern. Then the church was taken off Savannah Circuit and put on Savannah Charge. Rev. James H. Elder of First Church was pastor. Rev. H. Thornton Fowler came back and served two years, Rev. Charles Parker served one year, Rev. J. E. Wolfe four years, and Rev. J. Fort Fowler four years. The addition to the church was added in 1952 while Rev. J. Fort Fowler was pastor.

Annual Conference of 1954 made East End a station with Rev. Howard L. Hudson as pastor. MRS. LEETH JOHNSON, *Historian*

CALVARY

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Calvary Church was organized February 22, 1942, in "Stokes" county school building on Belmont Boulevard, Nashville, Tennessee, with thirty members.

Previous to this time there had been preliminary work done by the District Superintendent, Dr. B. G. Hodge, and the district locating committee, as follows: Ministers—E. P. Anderson, Priestley Miller, Pickens Johnson. Laymen—C. H. Yarbrough, Littell J. Rust, E. W. Turnley.

This committee made a complete survey of the territory and recommended a site on Hillsboro Road just south of Graybar Lane, which was adopted. This property was owned by four heirs of the Puryear estate: Mrs. A. Battle Rodes, Mrs. Henry Goodpasture, W. A. Puryear, and G. A. Puryear. They made a price of \$6,000.00 on the lot, and each made a donation of \$500.00. Subsequently Mrs. Rodes made a further donation of the balance of her share (\$1,000.00), leaving \$3,000.00 to be raised.

The first meeting of those interested was held at the home of E. W. Turnley. Present were those mentioned above and others of what later became an organizing committee, as follows: Six Ministers—Bishop Paul B. Kern, Dr. B. G. Hodge, District Superintendent, E. P. Anderson, Priestley Miller, J. Q. Schisler, Pickens Johnson; twelve laymen—E. W. Turnley, James H. Parkes, Charles H. Yarbrough, A. Battle Rodes, Bascomb Jones, Robert C. Fields, Littell J. Rust, Cecil D. Jones, Sr., Clay W. Huddleston, Lowe Watkins, W. D. Richards, Joe V. Pilkington. Six of these laymen never became members of Calvary but continued to support it with money and service.

Plans were discussed for organizing this first new Methodist church in Nashville in seventeen years.

The next meeting was held at home of C. H. Yarbrough, at which meeting the first money was subscribed toward paying for the lot. Later a meeting of all Nashville Methodism was called to meet at McKendree Church and they agreed to help finish paying for the lot. Next plans were made for organization. Bishop Kern appointed E. P. Anderson as pastor and authorized him to call a community meeting and preside at the organization as mentioned above. The temporary name adopted was Woodmont Methodist Church. The county school board very kindly granted us the use of the school building free of rent to hold Sunday school and preaching Sunday mornings only, until we could build our first unit; this was more than three years.

Dr. Anderson at once began to visit and secure members, and the roll for charter members was held open until April 15, at which time it was closed with seventy-four members. We reported eighty-four at the next Annual Conference—1942. Our membership has steadily increased, being now well above one thousand.

We began to raise money for our first unit. The chairman of the board and the pastor went to Louisville, Kentucky, and presented to the Board of Church Extension a survey which the official board had made of our prospects and secured a gift of \$7,500.00 and a loan of \$30,000.00; subsequently raised to \$40,000.00 on very liberal terms. Ground was broken on September 30, 1945, Dr. Anderson presiding. The Sunday school superintendent then was Rev. M. Earl Cunningham. He used the pick and Charles H. Yarbrough turned the first shovel of dirt.

We soon outgrew these quarters, consisting of a small chapel, a fellowship hall, and a portion of the Sunday school building, costing around \$106,000.00. This having been fully paid, we again secured a loan of \$80,000.00 and finished the second unit at a cost of about \$130,000.00. This loan we expect to have paid in full within two years and then build our sanctuary at a cost of about \$250,000.00, which we expect to occupy by November 1, 1956, with a debt well within our ability to pay within the terms of our last loan.

In the Beginning—

The first exploratory meeting—February 22, 1942

The first pastor—Dr. E. P. Anderson

The first Quarterly Conference—February 24, 1942, at 808 Broadway

The first board of stewards—E. E. Frost, Woodrow Geier, Clay W. Huddleston, Cecil D. Jones, John Langham, Joe V. Pilkington, C. H. Yarbrough, C. L. Short, Mrs. E. O. Harbin, A. H. Morton, C. E. Dixon, Thomas Buford, Homer N. Smith, G. M. Yarbrough, Fletcher M. Dodson, Waterfield Thomas

INSTITUTIONS IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE

The first board of trustees—Clay W. Huddleston, Joe V. Pilkington, Battle Rodes, Littell Rust, J. Q. Schisler, Edmund Turnley, C. H. Yarbrough

The first building committee—M. Earl Cunningham, Leon Jourolmon, C. E. Dixon, Miss Elsie Miller, Mrs. Clay Huddleston, E. E. Frost, C. H. Yarbrough

The first Sunday school superintendent—Cecil D. Jones, Sr.

The first Sunday school session—March 1, 1942

The first Holy Communion service—March 1, 1942

The first sermon by a Bishop—Paul B. Kern, March 8, 1942

The first chairman of the official board—C. H. Yarbrough

The first church treasurer—John Langham

The first chairman of the board of trustees—A. Battle Rodes

The first president of the W.S.C.S.—Mrs. S. H. Hillman

The first chairman of the building committee—M. Earl Cunningham

The first permanent name adopted by the Quarterly Conference—March 20, 1942

The first Men's Club was organized October 18, 1942—Leon Jourolmon, president

The first death—Mrs. Charles Yarbrough, November 16, 1943

The first service in the new building—Saturday evening, November 8, 1947

The first revival service—By Bishop Broomfield, beginning November 9, 1947

Church membership as of March 1, 1955—1,000. Rev. Willard H. Blue pastor since 1949.

C. H. YARBROUGH, *Historian*

TRINITY

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

Trinity Methodist Church is located in Hardin County, a mile and a half from Savannah in the Olivet community. It was organized September 12, 1943. Rev. V. P. Felker was the organizing pastor. The following officials were elected: Stewards—L. L. Smith, Mrs. Bud Stricklin; secretary, Miss Lyda Davis; treasurer, L. L. Smith. The church was dedicated in 1945. The following were charter members: Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ables, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Franks, Mrs. Bud Stricklin, Mrs. Elmer Ables, Miss Frances Stricklin, Miss Lyda Davis, Miss Kathleen Stricklin, Miss Doris Smith, Miss Zubia Smith, Miss Ruby Smith, Miss Ruth Young.

Mr. Robert Franklin Smith entered the Methodist ministry from this young church. He is now completing his second year in Martin College.

JAMES T. JOHNSON, *Pastor*

NEW HAVEN

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

In September, 1944, a few members from Rose Valley and Wyatt's Chapel Methodist Churches of the Big Rock Circuit and several new members organized the New Haven Methodist Church. The pastor of the Big Rock Circuit became the pastor of the new church. The membership at the time of organization was thirty-two. The present membership is forty. While the new church is only eleven years old, it is located in a fine community, fast overcoming handicaps and has promise of a very successful rural church.

DELWYN FRYER, *Pastor*

RAYON CITY

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Within a month and ten days after the adjournment of the Tennessee Conference at McKendree, October 2, 1944, Rev. Cullen T. Carter, who worked with the Nashville District Laymen's Club that year, had completed all necessary arrangements for the organization of a Sunday school in Rayon City, November 12, 1944. No building could be found for the Sunday school except an unoccupied greasy garage which was well located. The garage with hired help was cleaned. Chairs, literature, and other necessary equipment were provided. The organization was well advertised with handbills and house-to-house visitation. It was a grand opening but the attendance was small and the interest was only fair. The organization was complete for a small school. Mr. Leo Clark, a resident of Old Hickory, was elected superintendent. Week by week the enrollment increased and interest spread rather rapidly. It soon became apparent that there was need for a Methodist church in the community. In due time plans began to develop toward the organization of a church.

It was understood that the Church of God building in Rayon City could be purchased. Soon thereafter negotiations with the officials of this church were under way and had advanced so far that permission was granted to use the building for the organization of the new Methodist church. Therefore, on January 7, 1945, at 2:30 P.M., one month and twenty-five days after the Sunday school was organized, the Rayon City Methodist Church came into being with seventeen charter members. It was a dark, cold, disagreeable day. The attendance was very good. Several members of the District Methodist Laymen's Club were present and participated in the organization with eagerness, for their club through the special

worker was responsible for the new church. Rev. Willard H. Blue, who was District Superintendent, occupied the chair. Bishop Paul B. Kern delivered a great sermon. Following the sermon, Rev. Cullen T. Carter took the lead in the organization, after which a handsome offering was received for the youngest Methodist church in the district. The following composed the charter membership roll: Percy L. Lyell, Mrs. Percy L. Lyell, Mrs. Imo Turner, Percy H. Lyell, B. E. Lowery, Mrs. B. E. Lowery, W. E. Weems, Mrs. W. E. Weems, Mrs. Nettie Boyd, Mrs. J. W. Sharp, Mrs. B. E. West, R. N. Taylor, John Adams, Mrs. John Adams, Mrs. J. W. Snell, Mrs. Ernest Jones, Mrs. R. N. Taylor.

A few days after the organization of the new church, word was received that the officials of the Church of God had decided not to sell the church building. The new church found itself without a home and nowhere to go. Something had to be done and in a hurry. A building lot was located on Bridgeway Avenue in Rayon City which was most desirable. It was bought Tuesday, February 6, 1945. Work was begun immediately upon the excavation for the first unit. With much free labor and hired labor the first unit was ready for service in about three months.

On account of the promotion of other new churches in the district under the Laymen's Club, the pastor could not be present for all services and activities in the new church. Therefore, he secured the assistance of Rev. T. A. Matthews, a superannuated member of the Tennessee Conference, who lived in North Madison. April 1 he conducted the first Easter service in the new building and used as a text Hebrews 5:8-9. During the remaining five months until Annual Conference Brother Matthews made 152 pastoral visits and received seventeen into the church—eleven on profession of faith and six by certificate. The Woman's Society of Christian Service was also organized during this period.

The sanctuary was erected in 1950 during the pastorate of Rev. P. R. Russell, and an additional educational unit was built in 1954. Harold Ray entered the ministry from this church. It became a full station in 1952. The church has a membership of 160.

EDITOR

KERN MEMORIAL

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

The Nashville District Methodist Laymen's Club was organized in the early fall of 1944. Rev. Cullen T. Carter, who was finishing four years as pastor of City Road Methodist Church, was elected by the club and appointed by the Bishop as the first pastor of the club for the

purpose of organizing new Sunday schools and churches in the district. Under this arrangement, the third Sunday school was organized Sunday afternoon, November 19, 1944, at two-thirty o'clock in an old dirty, greasy, unoccupied store room on Nineteenth Street between Shelby Avenue and Boscobel Street. Mr. J. F. Shearon, a local retired resident, and a Negro ex-convict assisted in cleaning the building for the Sunday school. The attendance for the organization was far beyond expectation.

In order to determine whether the need for a Sunday school was an imagination or a reality, a community survey was made January 1, 1945. It showed sixty-five families were interested in the school and the possibility of a church in the community. Since the proposed site for a church was only a mile from East End Methodist Church, it was thought advisable to present the facts of the survey and other needs to the official board of East End for consideration. Therefore, on Sunday, January 21, 1945, Mr. J. F. Shearon, Mr. W. B. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Buchanan and Mr. Carter presented the finding to the East End board following the morning service. Bishop Paul B. Kern and Rev. Willard H. Blue, who was District Superintendent, were present and entered into the discussion. After very careful consideration the board voted approval for the proposed church. Soon thereafter the Nashville District Board on Church Location approved the purchase of 1815 Shelby Avenue, a large residence which was for sale, for the proposed church. Less than an hour after this approval, Brother Carter secured an option on the property for \$4,250.00. The owner was in Florida. Within two weeks the deed to the residence was secured. The next night, Monday, January 22, a mass meeting was held in the store for promotional purposes. Rev. Fred Woodard, pastor of East End, with several of his laymen, was present. Brother Woodard cooperated beautifully in promoting the new enterprise.

Thursday evening, March 1, a group of local volunteer workers began to convert the residence into a church building. The first wall was removed by seven o'clock; and when the remodeling was finished, there was a nice small sanctuary with several classrooms equipped with a piano, chairs, chancel, pulpit stand and other necessary furniture. And Kern Memorial was on the way.

Following are a number of FIRSTS in connection with the new enterprise:

It was the first new Methodist church within the city limits organized in fifty years.

Rev. Cullen T. Carter was the first pastor, who served until the following Annual Conference in September.

The first sermon was delivered by the District Superintendent

Rev. Willard H. Blue. His subject was "Christ's Love for the Church."

The first Sunday school superintendent was Dick Moores, elected November 19, 1944. Within a few months he was called into the service and Mr. W. B. Lewis was elected in his place April 29, 1945.

Mr. W. C. Gower was the first usher.

The first morning service was conducted March 18, 1945, by Rev. Eugene Lovell, missionary to Africa, who was at home on furlough.

The first revival was conducted by Brother Carter April 15-29. Rev. Vernon Bradley, pastor of Buchanan Street Methodist Church, did the preaching.

The first Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered by the pastor May 6, 1945.

The first special V.E. Day was observed by the pastor May 8, 1945, who spoke on "Thanksgiving for Victory." The Holy Communion was administered on this occasion.

The first prayer meeting was conducted in the old store by Mrs. C. C. Roller.

The first prayer meeting in the reconditioned residence was conducted by Mr. W. C. Gower.

The first Wednesday night song service was conducted by Mr. A. E. Barlar in February, 1945.

Mrs. Joe Buchanan was the first church historian, who was appointed when the church was organized February 25, 1945.

Diane Lewis, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Lewis, was the first baby baptized by Brother Carter, May 6, 1945, with water from the Jordan River, Palestine.

The first death was Mrs. Alice Duncan, 1904 Eastside Avenue, Monday, May 21, 1945. She attended service Sunday night before her passing the following day.

The first organist was Mrs. Charlie Paysinger.

The first Methodist Youth Fellowship was organized in June, 1945.

The first Woman's Society of Christian Service was organized April 4, 1945, with five members, as follows: Mrs. W. C. Gower, Mrs. Cliff Satterfield, Mrs. Cullen T. Carter, Mrs. Odel Cook, Mrs. Joe Buchanan. By July 15 the enrollment was twenty.

The first parsonage was purchased in April, 1954, located at 1619 Lillian Street.

Following are the names of the charter members who signed the register February 25, 1945, which was kept open for additional names for a week: J. F. Shearon, Mrs. Charlie Paysinger, Mrs. W. Climer, C. C. Roller, Mrs. C. C. Roller, W. Climer, W. C. Gower, Mrs. W. C. Gower, Mrs. Chester Roller, Joe H. Buchanan, Mrs. Joe H. Buchanan, A. J. Sowell, J. A. Elder, Mrs. J. A. Elder, Chester Roller,

W. B. Lewis, Mrs. W. B. Lewis, Miss Marjorie Troop, C. P. Satterfield, Mrs. C. P. Satterfield, O. H. Kennedy, Mrs. O. H. Kennedy, W. G. Kennedy, H. R. Kennedy, Hazel E. Kennedy, Bruce Castleman, Mrs. Bruce Castleman, Dick Moores, Mrs. Odel Cook, Mrs. W. C. Moore, Jr., Mrs. E. L. Fusse, Oliver Ralph, Mrs. Alice Duncan, Mrs. Lucy Bowers, T. J. Guthrie, Mrs. W. E. House, Mrs. W. Shockley, A. E. Barlar, Mrs. A. E. Barlar, Mrs. L. Broadbent, Mrs. A. J. Sowell, Mrs. Oliver Ralph, Mrs. P. L. Boulton, Archie Cole, Mrs. Archie Cole, Mrs. E. L. Notgrass, Miss Dorris Pennington.

The first board of trustees: J. F. Shearon, Mrs. C. C. Roller, Mrs. Charlie Paysinger, Joe H. Buchanan, O. H. Kennedy, A. E. Barlar.

First board of stewards: W. B. Lewis, chairman; J. A. Elder, W. C. Gower, Cliff P. Satterfield.

During the pastorate of Rev. W. O. Largen, 1948-53, the first story of the educational building was erected.

For the first ten years of history the church has had five pastors: Rev. Cullen T. Carter, Rev. Merrill O. Challman, Rev. Jack Sides, Rev. W. O. Largen, Rev. W. E. Moore.

The new church was named "Kern Memorial" in honor of Bishop Paul B. Kern, who was at that time president of the Tennessee Annual Conference.

The church membership in December, 1954, was 259. The congregation is growing and looking forward to the completion of the educational unit and the erection of the sanctuary in the early future.

W. E. MOORE, *Pastor*

MRS. JOE BUCHANAN, *Historian*

GLENDALE

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Glendale Methodist Church is located in the southern part of old Glendale Park. It occupies the most beautiful location in this historic park. The Sunday school was organized December 17, 1944, in the home of Mrs. T. W. Noland, who was the wife of Rev. T. W. Noland, a member of the Tennessee Conference from 1888 to his death in 1935. Her home was rather small, but she made every room available for the Sunday school. Rev. Cullen T. Carter as Extension Secretary organized the school. The following Sunday, December 24, Bishop Paul B. Kern delivered a sermon to the potential Methodist church. The Sunday school grew so rapidly the Glendale Methodist Church was organized March 4, 1945. After thorough publicity, the organization took place in the Burton Elementary School Building at 4517 Granny White Pike. Mr. Carter was assisted

in the organization by Rev. W. H. Blue, Superintendent of the Nashville District, and representatives from the Nashville District Methodist Laymen's Club. It had only been two months and seventeen days since the Sunday school was organized. Rev. Cullen T. Carter selected the building lot, and on March 31, 1945, paid \$3,500.00 for same. In a short time a small building 30x40 feet was erected on the lot which gave the new church a home. As the congregation grew numerically and financially, additions were made to the first unit which included a beautiful sanctuary and equipment. The church has approximately 350 members, 400 enrolled in the Sunday school, seventy-five in the W.S.C.S., pays the pastor \$4,000.00, value of church plant \$83,000.00 and parsonage \$20,000.00. Rev. W. C. Link is pastor in his first year.

A FRIEND, *Historian*

NASHVILLE CITY MISSIONS

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

The Nashville City Missions and the Nashville District Methodist Laymen's Club can be distinguished but they cannot be separated. In the spring of 1944, about 200 laymen of the Nashville District organized the Laymen's Club at Belmont Methodist Church. The club adopted the following objectives: 1. To promote the spirit of good will among Methodist men. 2. To stimulate the membership in Christian living. 3. To extend the cause of Christ in unoccupied areas through the organization of new Sunday schools and churches and assist in Christian work in underprivileged areas of the city.

Rapid progress was made toward the realization of the first objective early in the life of the club through meetings of the various committees and especially at the monthly dinner meetings. It was not long until members regardless of their local church affiliation began to call each other by their first names, to show a real interest in the well-being of each other, and all members regardless of the type of church represented began to feel their importance as members of The Methodist Church. The second objective is unconsciously being realized. More laymen are attending church services, more vitally interested in evangelism, missions, education, stewardship and solid piety than ever before in the church life of Nashville. The first part of the third objective was partly realized in the first year of the life of the club in the organization of Methodist churches in strategic centers in the city and environs. Prior to this there had not been a new Methodist church established in the city proper in fifty years. Among these churches and Sunday school were Vine Hill (housed in a government building), Rayon City, Kern Memorial, Glendale, St.

John and St. Paul (reconstituted). (Rev. Cullen T. Carter was responsible for the organization of these churches and Sunday schools while serving as Conference Extension Secretary, first for the Nashville District and later for the Tennessee Conference.—W. T. Steele.)

The last part of the third objective is being realized through the Nashville City Missions under the direct supervision of Rev. William Trabue Steele. Brother Steele is especially endowed for mission work by inheritance, academic and theological preparation, and through many years' experience as a missionary in China and the homeland. He is the son of Mrs. Hume R. Steele, who rendered distinguished service in the former Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in the Woman's Council. At one time she was president of the Tennessee Conference Woman's Missionary Society; president of the Federated Board of the Woman's Missionary Society of North America; Educational and Candidate Secretary of the Woman's Section of the Board of Missions of The Methodist Church. Brother Steele was a successful pastor in the Tennessee Conference for many years but his chief interest is in the field of missions.

The Nashville City Missions is not static and has not arrived but is constantly expanding under the experienced leadership of its superintendent. Following are the centers of operation as of October 7, 1855:

Annie Morison Smith—This mission is located at 216-18 Main Street. It is the oldest and largest in the city organization. Here, hundreds of people in need come and go with the blessing of God. Rev. Douglas Brown is the assistant in charge of this mission center.

Barth Memorial—This mission is located at 1113 Fourth Avenue, North. It was the first German-American Methodist Church organized in Nashville. For many years it rendered great service in the city and especially in North Nashville. As thousands of citizens moved from North Nashville, it became necessary, in order to survive, to change its denominational relationship. Therefore, in 1933, it united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Blakemore Methodist Church, during the pastorate of Rev. C. B. Cook, paid the cost of the transfer of the property by deed. Rev. Alton Brown is the assistant in charge of this strong mission center.

Croley Woods Heights—This mission is located on Cowden Avenue, which is the most beautiful view of any church in Nashville. It is the smallest center with the largest attendance according to space. Mr. Franklin Ferguson of Belmont Methodist Church is the chief assistant.

Katie Street—Katie Street Mission is located high above White Creek's Pike off Weakley Avenue. It is sponsored by Trinity Methodist Church and Mrs. Howard Klooz is the assistant in charge.

Nevada Avenue—During the year 1950 this tiny mission was organized. It is located at 3302 Nevada Avenue and overlooks the Parthenon and Vanderbilt University lighted tower. Were it not for this mission, many children and young people would have no place to worship. Mr. Jess Mangrum is the assistant.

North First Street—North First Street Mission is located at 411 North First Street in Northeast Nashville. It is the only door of hope in the midst of liquor stores, beer taverns and much lewdness. Workers from several strong Methodist churches in the city are the chief assistants.

Sixty-First Avenue—This mission center is located on the corner of Sixty-First and New York Avenues in the shadow of the State Penitentiary. It is an old mission church with new ways. Rev. John Walker, who is a local preacher and a carpenter by trade, is the assistant.

Treutland Street—Through the generous gifts of several of the larger churches in the city, this large mission building located at 236 Treutland Street was made possible. It has a beautiful sanctuary and several Sunday school rooms. It is serving an increasing number of people. Mr. Lee Qualls is the chief assistant.

Vernon Avenue—This mission on the outer fringe of our growing city is worshipping in the basement story. In the course of time the sanctuary will be erected on this strong foundation. Rev. B. G. Harrison is the chief assistant in this growing enterprise. Old Hickory Methodist Church is its chief sponsor.

White's Creek—It is located on White's Creek Pike about four miles from the Public Square. It is a small structure but in a fashion serves the needs of many children and young people who otherwise would have little opportunity of coming in contact with wonderful Christians except those from churches and colleges who assist in the work.

Our Laymen's Club—A very large number of interested laymen of Nashville are responsible for the success of the Nashville District Methodist Laymen's Club of The Methodist Church. However, it is universally acknowledged that Mr. T. Enloe Truett of Belmont Methodist Church conceived the idea of the club and its chief inspiration since its founding in the spring of 1944. He is a constant worker behind the scenes. He has often declined the high honor of the office of president or any other prominent place in the organization. The following distinguished laymen have served as president, one year each, in the order named: Lee Davis, J. C. Dale, T. C. Young, E. W. Turnley, C. C. Menzler, J. H. Bellew, R. B. Cummings, James E. Ward, Herbert Luton, T. O. Morris, Charles Bradley, E. W. Turnley, Jr.

EDITOR

HOMESTEAD

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Cumberland Homestead Sunday school was organized Sunday afternoon, November 4, 1945, by Cullen T. Carter, Conference Secretary; Rev. J. N. Wilson, pastor of Crossville Methodist Church; Rev. E. U. Robinson, Superintendent of the Cookeville District. The organization took place in the old Medical Center Building with seventy present. An offering was taken which amounted to \$12.00.

The church was organized by the above brethren and Dr. Schofield, who substituted for Bishop Paul B. Kern, absent on account of a death in his family. The organization took place in the school auditorium January 20, 1946, with sixty-three charter members.

In the ten years following the organization of the church, the church membership has been increased to 200 members, and property including three acres of land, a church building and parsonage valued at \$52,000.00, has been secured. The present indebtedness on this property is \$5,000.00.

The first estimated salary for the minister was set at \$1,000.00 by the action of the Quarterly Conference, November 24, 1946. The present estimated salary is \$3,500.00 set by the first Quarterly Conference of the year 1955-56, October 19, 1955. The budget for the year 1955-56 is \$6,786.00.

Pastors serving the church through the ten years are: Dr. W. G. Cram, J. N. Wilson, W. E. Newman, J. E. Trotter, W. B. Waldrop, M. A. Good, C. A. Stephens.

The present congregation, which includes most of the charter members, feels that the faith of those few Methodists who saw a need for a Methodist church on the homestead was of God, and that the church has served a real need in the community.

WALTER J. BUNN, *Pastor*

RIVERSIDE

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

As a result of the achievements in the Nashville District with the Nashville District Methodist Laymen's Club, Bishop Paul B. Kern decided to extend this work to the entire Conference under different procedure and continued the work of Rev. Cullen T. Carter by appointing him Conference Extension Secretary. The appointment was made Sunday afternoon, September 30, 1945, at McKendree with the adjournment of Conference.

Upon the suggestion of Rev. B. B. Pennington, pastor of the First Methodist Church in Columbia, the newly appointed Secretary

visited Riverside Tuesday, October 2, for the purpose of ascertaining whether there was need for a Methodist church in this fast developing suburb. After going over the area and interviewing several persons, he came to a very definite conclusion that this was a fertile field for a Methodist church. Before leaving the community in the afternoon he secured the Armory for church services. Thursday, October 4, additional investigation and preliminary plans were made for the organization of a Sunday school. Tuesday, October 9, with the assistance of Miss Lucy Foreman, a skilled worker with the General Board of Education of The Methodist Church, made a house to house canvass with handbills in the interest of a Sunday school to be organized in the Armory the following Sunday afternoon, October 14, at two-thirty o'clock. The attendance was not as large as was expected. Some attended with a determination to carry on, some attended to look on, and others who were present wondered. Rev. H. T. Tipps, Superintendent of the Columbia District, Rev. A. J. Davis, Executive Secretary of the Interboard Council of the Tennessee Conference, and Rev. B. B. Pennington, pastor of the First Methodist Church in Columbia, were present to "chunk up the fires" at the organization meeting.

Mr. J. O. Massey was elected superintendent. Mrs. H. D. Ellis was elected secretary and treasurer. Mr. H. S. Wetzell was elected teacher of the Adult Class and other teachers for lower grades. Mr. Massey said: "We could not have a Sunday school without a piano." In a few minutes \$80.00 was raised to apply on one.

A beautiful building lot on Sixth Avenue had been located. It met the approval of the local leaders, Bishop Kern, Rev. H. T. Tipps and Dr. P. B. Murphy of the General Board of Missions and Church Extension of Louisville, Kentucky. The price was \$3,800. Friday night, October 12, the Official Board of the First Methodist Church approved by vote the organization of the Riverside church. Tuesday, October 23, the District Committee on Building and Location approved the site for the proposed new Methodist church. Mr. A. F. Oakes, a prominent businessman of Columbia, was present when the District Committee was in session. He was not invited to the meeting and he did not participate in the meeting, but stood around near by. Finally, when the Committee reached a conclusion he called the Secretary to one side and asked: "Is this the lot you want?" And the answer was—Yes, and the Committee has approved it. He asked if we had the money to pay for it and was informed—No. And the Secretary stated that it had to be bought by afternoon for another person wanted it for a residence. Mr. Oakes replied: "I will advance the money." His offer was immediately accepted and in less than an hour the lot was secured.

Several meetings of local leaders were held during November and early December perfecting plans and selecting officers for the new church.

A very important meeting was held Friday night, November 23, 1945, at 7:15 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Massey. The object of the meeting was to make definite plans for the organization of the Riverside Methodist Church. The following were present: Rev. H. T. Tipps, District Superintendent who presided, Rev. Cullen T. Carter, Rev. B. B. Pennington, Mr. C. A. Ross, chairman of the board of stewards, First Methodist Church, Mr. Rufus Baker, superintendent of the First Church Sunday school, Mr. A. F. Oakes, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Ayers, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Woodard, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Wetzell, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Massey. Preliminary plans for the organization of a church were approved and December 16 at 2:30 P.M. was the date. Upon invitation of Mr. C. A. Ross, the First Methodist Church was approved as the place for organization. At a meeting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gray, December 3, Brother Carter announced a gift from the General Board of Missions and Church Extension, Louisville, through Dr. Murphy of \$1,000 on the building lot.

Sunday, December 16, 1945 was the birthday of Riverside Methodist Church. It was a cold, cloudy day with snow on the ground. The enthusiasm, spirit and hope were high. At two-thirty in the afternoon, the District Superintendent Rev. H. T. Tipps occupied the chair and conducted devotional service. Bishop Paul B. Kern delivered a truly great prophetic sermon. Rev. Cullen T. Carter at the conclusion of the Bishop's sermon took the lead in the organization. The following were received into the new church as charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Crow, Mrs. James Crawford, R. T. Darnell, Mrs. Blanche Ellis, Mrs. Sidney Fry, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Gray, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jack, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Massey, Mrs. Floyd McKee, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Ownby, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Osborne, Mrs. Annie Sowell, J. R. Stepp, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Stone, Jr., Mrs. Joe I. Thompson, Mrs. C. M. Tomlinson, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Woodward, Bill Parchman, Winelle Ellis, David Parchman, R. S. Hopkins, Sidney Fry, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert McBee, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Wetzell, Muriel Massey Katsuyama, Jere Ownby, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brown, H. D. Ellis, Mrs. Ernest Oakley.

The following were elected trustees: 1946—Dean Woodward, W. H. Gray; 1947—J. O. Massey, R. S. Hopkins; 1948—H. S. Wetzell, Marvin Crowe. The following were elected stewards: Marvin Crowe, H. D. Ellis, Walter Jack, J. O. Massey, Mrs. W. H. Gray, W. H. Gray. Sunday school superintendent—J. O. Massey. Recording steward—Marvin Crowe. Secretary and treasurer of the Sunday school—H. D.

Ellis. Treasurer of the Building Fund—J. O. Massey. Church Historian—Mrs. W. H. Gray. At the conclusion of the election of the officers, Brother Carter received an offering which amounted to \$2,636.00. He announced that he expected one man to give \$500 to start the offering but he was not present, and stated he believed someone would give \$500. At that moment Mr. A. F. Oakes raised his hand and gave the \$500.00.

On Wednesday, April 3, 1946, at three o'clock in the afternoon, Mt. Olivet, an abandoned Methodist church near Columbia, was sold at auction. Mr. Riley Randal was the auctioneer. Mr. J. N. Hood bought the building and lot for \$2,400. (The furnishings were retained for Riverside.) Following this sale, the same afternoon, a portion of the Riverside building lot which was not needed, was also sold at auction. It brought \$1,175 by Mr. F. H. Curtis.

The first service conducted on the building lot in front of the excavation for the basement, was a Sunrise Easter Service, April 21, 1946, by the pastor. The attendance was very good. The young son of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Ownby, Jere, with his bugle sounded reveille. How well we remember that early morning service and especially the sound of reveille floating over the air.

At the Annual Conference of 1946 in Pulaski, Rev. Fred Blankenship was assigned to Riverside. He became the second pastor. During his pastorate of six years—"through faith, subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness and obtained promises" which enabled him to transfer the blueprints into reality. Rev. Paul Williams became the third pastor in 1952. Early in the summer he was transferred to the Holston Conference. Rev. W. M. Cook, retired, of Santa Fe filled the pulpit until August 22, when Rev. Ben Alexander, after his release from active duty as a chaplain in the United States Navy, arrived at Riverside and became the fourth pastor.

A beautiful new brick parsonage with seven rooms and two baths was started during the ministry of Rev. Fred Blankenship. It was completed during the ministry of Rev. Paul Williams in January 1953.

Rev. Ben Alexander is the present pastor.

MRS. W. H. GRAY, *Historian*

WEBB'S CHAPEL

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Webb's Chapel was organized May 19, 1945, by the late Rev. O. A. Kirby, pastor of Smithville Circuit. At this time there was no church building and church service and Sunday school was held in

the New Bildad school building on the Seven Springs Road. The Rev. Kirby passed away before the church was completed. The Webb's Chapel building is now located on the Smithville-McMinnville highway 56, seven miles south of Smithville in DeKalb County. To organize this church seventeen (17) members moved their membership from various churches in order to establish a church. It was a day of rejoicing on that day that Rev. Kirby along with the members and friends poured the cornerstone.

The trustees when organized were H. C. Redmon, L. F. Patton, now deceased, Miss Lucille Ferrell, Mrs. Herbert C. Webb, Bennie Patton, and R. H. Estes. Bennie Patton was Sunday school superintendent until Sept. 1954. At present the church has forty-five members.

The Webb's Chapel building stands as a memorial to the late Herbert C. Webb who gave the land on which the Webb's chapel stands. The Reverend Sterling Whitley, James Beaty, W. P. Gibbs, E. W. Doggett and Walter Scherer have done much for the advancement of this church. James Kirby, son of the late O. A. Kirby, is our present church school superintendent, being elected September, 1954. Webb's Chapel is a growing church and is now planning a church school annex.

W. E. SCHAEERER, *Pastor*

OLIVET

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Olivet Church—organized December 29, 1946; located five miles north of McEwen, Tennessee, near headwaters of White Oak Creek. Charter members—six; present membership—seven. Brother and Sister J. W. Hooper, Brother and Sister Ezra Hudson, Mrs. Henry Long and Ella Winstead, charter members. This is a small group, but very active. There have been three District Superintendents since organization: Rev. A. J. Davis, Rev. C. B. Cook, and Rev. H. T. Tipps. Pastors in order as they appear: E. B. Smith (at time of organization), E. W. Doggett, Carl Felker, John E. Coleman.

RITA M. BISHOP, *Historian*

EAST END (Lawrenceburg)

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

The Crowder Methodist Church came into being as a part of the Tennessee Conference Extension program, 1944-48, under the direction of Rev. Cullen T. Carter, Extension Secretary. After proper survey, personal visitation and publicity, the Sunday school was

organized November 18, 1945, in a residence nearby. Within six months and eight days conditions became favorable for the organization of a church which took place May 26, 1946. The organization meeting was held in a small garage on the rear of the building lot which had been purchased for the new church. Rev. Dean Stroud who was Presiding Elder of the Mount Pleasant District presided. The Extension Secretary conducted the organization and served as the first pastor since the organization of the Sunday school until the Annual Conference. The Board of Church Extension in Louisville, Kentucky, was generous in financial support in making the new church possible. Rev. R. L. Freeman, pastor of Coleman Memorial, rendered valuable service to the young struggling church. For some time he preached at Crowder at ten o'clock and in his own pulpit at eleven o'clock and encouraged the work in many ways.

The church plant has been enlarged with the erection of Fellowship Hall and kitchen. Work is scheduled to begin the erection of a new sanctuary in August 1955. The church has a very active W.S.C.S., and M.Y.F. There are ninety-one members on the church roll and ninety-one enrolled in the Sunday school. The name was changed to East End in 1948. Rev. Charles Dean is the pastor.

MRS. RICHARD SPRINGER, *Historian*

HINESTOWN

MOUNT PLEASANT DISTRICT

Hinestown is located approximately five miles from Summertown on the Hohenwald Highway. The Sunday school was organized in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Doss, Sunday afternoon at two o'clock, April 14, 1946, by the Conference Extension Secretary—Rev. Cullen T. Carter. Mr. and Mrs. Doss had a large family but they were willing to share their small dwelling for Sunday school and church purposes. Mr. Doss donated an acre of land suitably located on the highway as a site for a Methodist church. The Doss home was not only used for Sunday school but church services until the weather became warmer when a brush arbor was built on the church lot. The church was organized under the arbor June 23, 1946. Rev. Dean Stroud, Superintendent of the Mount Pleasant District presided at the organization service. The Secretary directed the organization of the new Methodist church. The charter membership was not large but very determined and enthusiastic. A bootlegger sold beer in a trailer truck near by but when increased interest was shown by citizens of the community he moved his place of business to other parts. Soon after the church was organized work was begun raising

money and the erection of a concrete block church building which was opened for services by Christmas, 1946. The church has a membership of forty-one and belongs to the Summertown Circuit.

DORRIS SMOTHERMAN, *Pastor*

ST. PAUL'S

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

St. Paul's Methodist Church, located in West Nashville, originally was an Independent church. Without denominational affiliation, it had gone about as far as it could. In the light of many factors and after prolonged discussions and conferences it was decided to become a denominational congregation. Rev. Cullen T. Carter, Conference Extension Secretary, heard of our situation and made our church a visit at which time he extended an invitation to the congregation and pastor, Rev. W. H. Rollins, to unite with the Tennessee Conference of The Methodist Church. The invitation was accepted unanimously and according to Methodist procedure we became a Methodist church. With this new relationship we adopted a new name. Rev. W. H. Blue was the District Superintendent and shared in the organization of St. Paul's Methodist Church. At the Annual Conference in Springfield, 1947, Rev. W. H. Rollins was assigned as the first pastor of the new St. Paul's church.

The fifty-seven members of the Independent church became the charter members of the new Methodist church without the loss of one. The church is making rapid progress in membership and spirit. We have 121 church members and over a hundred enrolled in the Sunday school. Rev. R. E. Kea is our pastor. The congregation is in the process of the erection of a new modern building.

MRS. IDA PARROTT, *Historian*

GLENWOOD

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

In 1945, a union church was organized at Glenwood school in Humphreys County, Tennessee. Services were conducted once a month by Rev. W. J. Wilson (now retired) and a Free Will Baptist and Church of Christ minister on the other Sundays of the month.

Out of this church an official Methodist church was organized two years later during the pastorate of Rev. R. R. Hatcher. Mr. R. K. Jones was elected as its first Sunday school superintendent, and served in that office until August, 1955, when he asked to be relieved and was succeeded by the present superintendent, Mr. Harvey Bruce.

Immediately after organizing, a move was started to build a Methodist church. Land for the new church was given by Mr. R. K. Jones and an abandoned school building was purchased from the county to be torn down and moved to the new site. Almost four years elapsed before the new church was completed.

In the spring of 1954, the church was near enough completed to be occupied, and on April 24, 1954, Rev. Luther M. Long conducted the first service there.

The Sunday school was organized in October, 1955, with twelve members and now has an average of thirty-five in attendance. The official church roll now has seventeen names.

On April 24, 1955, an all day program directed by the pastor J. W. Jarrell, Jr. was given as a dedication service for the church. Rev. H. T. Tipps, District Superintendent of the Clarksville District, conducted the official dedication service, and Brother Mose Waggoner, district lay leader of the Clarksville District, brought the evening message.

A great number of people were instrumental in making this church possible by giving financial aid and work in its behalf, and the enthusiastic support of the Humphreys County layman's club was a prime factor in its becoming a reality instead of a dream.

Pastors who were influential during this process of building a church were: Rev. W. J. Wilson, who saw a need for a church in this community; Rev. R. R. Hatcher, who started the move for a new Methodist church; Rev. V. P. Felker who served during its first stages of development, and Rev. Long who was fortunate enough to see it completed during his pastorate.

J. W. JARRELL, JR., *Pastor*

COWAN

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Early in May, 1947, Rev. Cullen T. Carter, Conference Extension Secretary, after consultation with the District Superintendent, Rev. J. Dallas Bass, made an exploratory visit to Cowan to ascertain whether or not there was need for a Methodist church in this rapidly growing town. He was soon impressed, after conferring with a few business leaders and surveying a new subdivision, there was need for a Methodist church. May 6, 1947, a beautiful building lot in the subdivision was purchased from Mr. J. F. Terry for \$1,650.00 cash. May 26, 1947, 1200 hand bills were distributed over the town announcing the organization of the new church to take place in the public school building near by, June 8, 1947, at two o'clock—Sunday. Great preparations had been made for this august meeting. Bishop

Paul B. Kern, Rev. J. Dallas Bass and several interested persons from Decherd and Winchester were present. At the same time the church was organized, a baseball game was in progress on the campus of the public school. The attendance for the organization of the church was meager in comparison with the attendance at the ball game. In spite of the small attendance the church was legally and constitutionally organized. An army chapel at Camp Forest had been bought for \$900.00. Mr. J. C. Jenkins of Winchester was employed to move the chapel from Camp Forest to Cowan and on July 9, 1947, he was paid \$2,200.00 for his work.

The church has faced many difficulties but has mastered all of them. About 1948, a beautiful comfortable parsonage was erected near the church building. The W.S.C.S. was organized December 2, 1948, and other activities were instituted as the new church grew. The church was formally opened April 14, 1948, with Dr. George Stoves delivering the sermon and Rev. J. Dallas presiding. The church has a membership of nearly a hundred and an equal number in the Sunday school. The congregation has just improved the plant at a cost of \$3,000.00.

LEE MEDLEY, *Pastor*

ST. JOHN

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

St. John Methodist Church was one of twenty-seven churches organized and reconstituted during the quadrennium of 1944-48, when Rev. Cullen T. Carter served as Extension Secretary of the Tennessee Conference. It was organized Sunday afternoon March 9, 1947, at 2:30 o'clock by Bishop Paul B. Kern, Rev. W. H. Blue, District Superintendent, and Rev. Cullen T. Carter. The following represented the Nashville District Methodist Laymen's Club: Mr. J. C. Dale, Mr. Albert Thomas, and Mr. W. J. Stephens. Rev. John Ferguson, pastor of Belmont Methodist Church suggested the name which was adopted. The General Board of Missions and Church Extension, Louisville, Kentucky, made a generous donation and a liberal loan for the youngest church in the Tennessee Conference up to that time. The building lot located at the corner of Charlotte Road and Westboro Street was purchased January 1, 1947 for \$2,000. The building was a Government chapel located at the Naval Classification Center on Thompson Lane and was bought June 10, 1947, for \$2,800. It was dismantled and relocated on the present site on a full size basement.

There were twenty-eight charter members at the organization as follows: Mrs. H. D. O'Brien, Miss Bessie O'Brien, Mrs. W. A. Gailey, Mrs. W. T. Weatherly, Mrs. Lula Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert H. Driver, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Kinkade, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Maxwell, Mr. W. C. Allen, Mr. B. J. Green, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Sexton, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Miles, Alfred Edgar Miles, Tim Richard Miles, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Mays, Mrs. A. C. Lanier, Mrs. O. W. Hows, Mrs. Joe V. Dobbs, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Carlton, and Miss Elsie Hows and Mr. W. J. Stephens were counted as associate members.

The following are the *FIRST* in the history of our church: *Pastor*—Rev. Cullen T. Carter; *Associate pastor*—Rev. W. H. Rollins; *Trustees*—H. W. Kinkade, W. L. Sexton, Herbert H. Driver; *Stewards*—A. B. Miles, J. H. Maxwell, W. T. Weatherly; *Treasurer* *Building Fund*—W. J. Stephens; *Sunday school superintendent*—Herbert H. Driver; *President of the Methodist Youth Fellowship*—Miss Katie Smith; *President of Woman's Society of Christian Service*—Mrs. A. B. Miles; *Sunday school session* (organization) April 6, 1947; *Vacation Church School*—Summer, 1947, Miss Elsie Hows, Superintendent, conducted under a tent; *Revival of Religion*—under a tent in the summer of 1947; *Convert*—Miss Ann Mays, summer of 1947 at tent revival, she was baptized by Rev. Cullen T. Carter with water from the Jordan River; *Formal opening of the building*—November 16, 1947, Bishop J. C. Broomfield of St. Louis was the principal speaker; *Pastor after the church was officially opened*—Rev. W. T. Wallace, supply, student in Vanderbilt University.

Craig Memorial Methodist Church was merged with St. John, Sunday, September 17, 1950. It was originally known as "Winn's Chapel" organized in 1900 and occupied a building lot near the New Railroad Shops on Charlotte Avenue. It was moved a few blocks and renamed "Craig Memorial" in 1926 in honor of Rev. Robert Craig a prominent member of the Tennessee Conference. The merging of this old church with St. John was a red letter day in the life of the new church.

Prior to 1950, the church bought a lot adjoining the church property on Westboro Street and upon it erected a very substantial six room brick parsonage and a garage.

St. John has grown steadily since the day of its organization and the membership at the present time is 291. Mr. Vernon Stinson is superintendent of the Sunday school. Mr. George T. Pearson is chairman of the Board of Stewards. The following are members of the Board of Trustees: Mr. Lewis E. Brown, Mr. W. A. Carlton, Mr. J. C. Carlton, Mr. J. A. Frizell, Mr. W. L. Sexton, Mr. W. T. Weatherly. Rev. James F. Rowlett is our pastor.

MRS. A. B. MILES, *Historian* ..

LAMBUTH MEMORIAL

CUMBERLAND DISTRICT

The first meeting in the interest of a proposed Methodist church in South Gallatin, Sumner County, Tennessee, was held on January 23, 1947. The actual organization of the church did not take place until July 20, 1947, under the leadership of the Rev. Cullen T. Carter, Conference Secretary of Church Extension, and of several local residents who were interested in the building of a new church. At that time, Rev. H. W. Seay was Superintendent of the Cumberland District. The Sunday school was organized also by Rev. Carter January 18, 1948. Mr. and Mrs. Charley Vantrease promoted the organization with money and home.

The new church was given the name of Lambuth Memorial, and had thirteen charter members. Upon organization, it became a part of the Gallatin Circuit, together with Cairo, Castalian Springs, and Rehobeth Methodist Churches.

Rev. John Bassett was the first pastor of Lambuth. Since that time, the church has been served by Rev. Marvin Sweat and Rev. James Crutcher.

Following the meeting of the Tennessee Annual Conference in 1953, Lambuth Memorial was a station church.

In the autumn of 1953, a basement was added to the church, and in the summer of 1955, a parsonage adjacent to the church was purchased.

The present membership of the church is ninety-five.

MAURICE MOORE, *Pastor*

PETER CARTWRIGHT MEMORIAL

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Among the swaying oak and pine trees of Jonesville Community stands a beautiful white church known by the name of Cartwright Memorial Methodist Church, named in honor of Peter Cartwright. This church owes its beginning to the efforts of Rev. Cullen T. Carter, Herlan Dalton, and E. U. Robinson, the latter being District Superintendent of the Cookeville District at that time. The church was organized in 1947 with a total of thirteen members. Rev. Herlan Dalton was pastor from its beginning until Annual Conference in 1951.

The progress of the construction of the building was very slow. In the meantime, services were held in an old school building. By the

summer of 1951, the building was still far from being finished. There was a good foundation and some block wall. This same year Rev. W. C. Massengale was appointed pastor of Cartwright Memorial. The construction seemed to take on a new surge under the capable leadership of Rev. Massengale. By the summer of 1953 the church building was ready for use, however it was not completed until 1954. The work was done by the pastor and the people. Money was hard to get so they cut paper wood to get money to buy the building material.

There has already been one young man from Cartwright Memorial Methodist Church to enter the ministry. He is Harold Hall, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hall. He is now a freshman at Lindsey Wilson College, Columbia, Ky., and is also pastoring three churches.

MRS. N. C. LARUE, *Historian*

P.S.: The church is located near the Indian Trace that connected Rockwood and the Cumberland Settlement over which Bishop Asbury traveled several times and over which Peter Cartwright traveled when he spent the night about five miles west of present-day Clarkrange when he turned a dance into a prayer meeting.—Editor.

MOSS CHAPEL

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

A new addition in East McMinnville was well underway in 1948. Early in June 1948, Rev. Cullen T. Carter, Extension Secretary of the Tennessee Conference, made an exploratory visit to the subdivision. He was thoroughly impressed that a Methodist church was needed in the community. Later he visited practically every home in the addition. An old dwelling was discovered near the center of the community and with encouragement from Rev. William H. Moss who was pastor of the First Methodist Church in McMinnville and others, he bought this property for \$2,000.00. The purchase was made June 3. The Board of Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Church in Louisville was liberal in its donation for this enterprise. Partitions were immediately removed and the house made ready for use. The secretary, with the assistance of Brother Moss, organized the Sunday school Sunday afternoon, June 13, 1948. The school was a success from the beginning. Within less than two months the East McMinnville Methodist Church was organized, August 8. Rev. J. Dallas Bass, Superintendent of the Murfreesboro District, who supported the movement from the beginning and Rev. W. H. Moss assisted the secretary in the organization.

Because of the wonderful cooperation, hard work, and his service as the first pastor along with his duties in the First Church, the name of the new Methodist church was officially changed to "Moss Chapel." The old building was used until 1951 when it was sup-

planted by a new modern structure which cost \$11,000.00. The thirteen charter members have grown to seventy-five (1955) with practically the same number enrolled in the Sunday school. The church has an active W.S.C.S., and an MYF. Rev. R. C. Woodard is pastor.

MRS. HUBERT KING, *Historian*

OAK STREET

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Oak Street Methodist Church, Livingston, grew out of a revival held by Rev. Harry Denman at First Methodist Church of Livingston in the summer of 1948. Following the revival a Sunday school was organized in the home of Mrs. Joe Masters with seven children and three adults. The next Sunday the Sunday school was moved to the lawn of Rev. J. H. Brown, then pastor of the Livingston Mission. It continued there until winter. During the winter it was moved to a room of the Stonecipher Hatchery. In the year 1949 a small building was purchased. The Sunday school moved there and the Oak Street Church was organized by Rev. E. U. Robinson, District Superintendent, and Rev. Carmon Greer, pastor, with twelve members. The building purchased was soon needed for a parsonage so the Sunday school and church were moved to the office building of Medlock Lumber Company. It continued there until it was moved into the present church building. There are at present, December, 1955, forty-three members with a record attendance of 103 at Sunday school.

The first money for which to construct the church was deposited in the bank December 13, 1951, and the ground broken in May, 1952. Through advanced specials of the First Methodist Church, Livingston, Cookeville District, and the Tennessee Conference, the untiring work of Rev. Charles Parker and many others, we now have a nice church building which cost \$6,000.00.

The church is indeed grateful to Almighty God and the many Christian friends who assisted in the work.

ERNEST CASHDOLLAR, *Pastor*

DALEWOOD

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Dalewood Methodist Church was the result of many years of planning by the Nashville District and Inglewood Methodist Church. Rev. J. Dallas Bass, District Superintendent of the Nashville District,

assigned Rev. R. L. Langford to the church on March 15, 1950. The opening service was held in Hobson Methodist Church two weeks later. The following Sunday the first service was held in Inglewood school. The church was officially organized April 30, 1950, with one hundred and twenty-six members. The church school was organized with one hundred and twenty-two members. A Woman's Society was organized with twenty-nine members.

The first unit of the plant was started in September, 1950. This was a Recreation Hall, which would be used as a place of worship and for church school until the church was completed. The building cost about twenty-five thousand dollars. It was completed in March, 1951. The first unit of the Education Building was started in June, 1952, and completed in March, 1953. The cost of the first unit of the Education Building was sixty thousand dollars. The church bought a parsonage on the lot adjoining the church property in June, 1953. A building committee has been set up to proceed with plans for the auditorium. The estimated cost of this building is a little over two hundred thousand dollars.

The Church has grown from a membership of one hundred twenty-six in 1950 to over five hundred in 1955. The church school enrollment has grown to six hundred and fifty. Dalewood is a church of young adults, with faith, vision and a will to work.

Official Board for the year 1955-56: John J. Beck, Thomas Bentzel, Secretary, Chester D. Boyles, W. W. Carpenter, Foster L. Corn, Jr., James Dalton, Robert Dalton, Mrs. Robert Dalton, President of W.S.C.S., L. C. Diehl, Ewing Elliott, William Ford, Chairman, Richard Fulton, Granville Hale, Mayo T. Kerr, Walter Leatherwood, Herbert F. Leek, Robert H. Lewis, Kirk H. Low, Roy L. Manning, Pat Matthews, President of M.Y.F., Donald McCrary, Hugh D. McKeown, Albert Measles, Walter C. Myers, Jr., Leslie H. Neely, Thomas Owen, Vice-Chairman, J. A. Payne, Martin Robbins, Church school Superintendent, Charles H. Scalf, Alfred J. Smith, Edward D. Smith, A. E. Tomlinson, Jr., Gerald T. Turner, Spencer Wise, Roy Wright, Jr., Mrs. Robert Hall, Chairman Comm. on Mission.

R. L. LANGFORD, *Pastor*

MATTHEWS MEMORIAL

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

As the direct outgrowth of the interest of the Men's Bible Class of the City Road Methodist Church, Madison, at the time J. C. Dale, Jr. was teacher of the class and Rev. James H. Elder was pastor, on

April 16, 1950, a new church was organized to serve that portion of the Madison community north of Old Hickory Boulevard on both sides of Gallatin Road. A survey of this area made by members of the class and of the City Road congregation had revealed eighty families of Methodists and other denominations who were interested in the establishment of a church in the community.

Securing the use of the Amqui elementary school building as a temporary meeting place, sixty-one charter members were enrolled and regular services began with Rev. P. R. Russell, pastor of the adjoining Neely-Rayon Circuit, and Leo Clark, of the Rayon City church, who assisted in the survey, accepting responsibility for the pastoral leadership of the church until annual conference. Almond L. Johnson was made Sunday school superintendent and served very successfully for three years.

The first quarterly meeting of the new congregation was held June 4, 1950, with Rev. J. Dallas Bass, superintendent of the Nashville District, presiding. At this meeting a proposal was made and unanimously adopted that the new church be known as "Matthews Memorial" in honor of Rev. and Mrs. T. A. Matthews, beloved members of City Road and residents of the community in which the church was being located.

An offer by the City Road congregation to provide a building site was also approved and this site was later secured on Anderson Lane opposite the school building at a cost of \$2,000.

At this meeting the first officers and teachers of Matthews Memorial were permanently elected: Almond Johnson, superintendent, Rev. T. A. Matthews, Mrs. Burt Sarver, Mrs. J. B. Dunn, Mrs. S. W. Hankins, Mrs. Floy Johnson, Mrs. Owen White, and Mrs. Joseph E. Kelly, as teachers; Miss Lenice Bible as secretary, and Miss Dorris Carter as treasurer. Brother Matthews led the congregation in the first Communion service on April 23.

On Sept. 27, 1950, ground was broken for the construction of an educational building, with plans for a sanctuary later. Rev. Virgil C. Bell was the first pastor appointed by the annual conference, and Rev. J. H. Moore the second. Rev. B. R. Panter is now in his third year of very successful leadership to the congregation. Present membership, 182, Sunday school enrollment, 251. A Woman's Society of Christian Service was organized Nov. 26, 1950, and is proving of great worth to the church.

Throughout the organization period and in the construction of its first unit, Matthews Memorial congregation has been greatly benefited by the aid and assistance of the Nashville District Board of Church Extension.

T. A. MATTHEWS, *Historian*

BELLE MEADE

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

A number of Methodist laymen from the various churches of Nashville met with Bishop Paul B. Kern, Bishop of the Nashville area, and Rev. J. Dallas Bass, superintendent of the Nashville District, with the idea of organizing a new church in the Belle Meade vicinity. Of these laymen present at the early meetings, E. W. Turnley, E. W. Turnley, Jr., and Walter H. Lovell and their respective families joined the Belle Meade Church and are active in it today.

A special organizational meeting was held at Parmer school September 24, 1950, with Bishop Kern, Rev. Dallas Bass, and Dr. Everett Tilson, and several other Nashville pastors present. The church was organized and Dr. Tilson became its first Pastor and served for two years. The charter membership was open for a period of six months thereafter and totaled 119 members.

In January, 1951, the Church purchased a parsonage on Blackburn Drive and in June 1953, purchased a twelve and one-half acre site on Harding at Davidson Road. In August of 1954, ground was broken for our church school as the first unit of our building program and on March 20, 1955, opening services were held in the first unit which is the Educational Building.

Our church has experienced a constant and consistent growth, from a total of 123 members at end of the first year to the present membership of 340.

We are indebted not only to those who conceived the idea but to the wise council of Bishop Short and personal attention of Rev. W. C. Westenberger, and the many members who have given so unselfishly of their time, talent and means.

FRED BLANKENSHIP, *Pastor*

WOODLAWN

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

The Woodlawn Methodist Church was organized in 1951, by Rev. Frank Snavelly.

This church opened with eleven members. Services were held in the Woodlawn school building about two years during which time school was discontinued. With a few donations this building was bought from the county with several acres and donated to the Methodist Conference.

We are having Sunday school every Sunday, and worship services twice a month.

The church has grown in membership to twenty-two.

G. C. SELF, *Pastor*

ST. LUKE

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

In the fall of 1951 Mr. W. B. Perry, Sunday school superintendent of Riverside Methodist Church, brought to the attention of the Official Board the need for a church in the Ninth Civil District of Columbia. Rev. H. Fred Blankenship, pastor of Riverside Church, planned and led a survey in the community. A revival was planned and held for a two-week period beginning August 8, 1951. This meeting was held in a tent on a lot about two miles from Columbia on the Santa Fe Pike. The climax of this meeting was the organization of a Methodist church called "New Hope." There were fourteen charter members: Mrs. Henry Brunson from Goshen Methodist Church, Mr. and Mrs. Joe F. Herrod from Riverside Methodist Church, Mrs. D. M. Moore and three children from the Methodist Church in Tuscumbia, Ala., Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pitts from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cortner from Westminster Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Jerry Potts admitted on profession of faith. Clarence and John W. Haywood admitted on profession of faith.

The first official board of this new church met and was presided over by the district superintendent, Rev. E. C. Shelton. This board was given the authority to select and purchase a lot on which to erect a building in the future. This board selected a lot less than a quarter of a mile from the site of the original organization of the new church. The lot was purchased from Mr. O. B. Nicks. This board also voted to purchase from the Presbytery the chapel and lot known as the Westminster Presbyterian Church. Services were held in this chapel by Rev. Fred H. Blankenship until Annual Conference, September, 1951. At that time Rev. C. B. Cook of the First Methodist Church of Columbia agreed for the associate pastor of his church, Rev. A. E. Thompson, to conduct services at the new church. Rev. Thompson worked with the congregation until the last of February, 1952. At that time Rev. Richard Roe of Craft Memorial Methodist Church agreed to serve this new church. He has worked faithfully and loyally and inspired others to do likewise. The membership has increased to forty-two at the present time. Building of a new structure began November 1, 1953. This was made possible by the Quarterly Conference held October 1, 1953, presided over by the district superintendent, Rev. W. M. Lantrip. It was unanimously voted to change the name of the church from "New Hope" to "St. Luke Methodist Church."

RICHARD ROE, *Pastor*

DONELSON HEIGHTS

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

With the increasing number of homes in the Donelson area, it became apparent to the District Planning Committee that another Methodist church was needed in the Donelson area. On October 18, 1951, a group of interested people met in the ex-Governor Roberts' mansion on Freno Lane to discuss the organization of a Methodist church.

After cottage prayer meetings and an increase in enthusiasm, the Donelson Heights Methodist Church was organized at the first Quarterly Conference, November 18, 1951, in the basement of Dr. E. E. Anderson's clinic, with the Rev. W. C. Westenberger, District Superintendent of the Nashville District, officiating. Fifty-five members comprised the organization of the church with the Rev. P. R. Russell serving as minister. Increased interest within the next three months necessitated the moving of the church to the Donelson Elementary School, during which time the church increased considerably, reporting a membership of 106.

In the fall of 1952 the Rev. Carroll J. Hickman was appointed by Bishop Roy Short as the first full-time pastor.

Property had been purchased on the hillside of Fairway and Selma Drives. The church was moved from the Donelson Elementary School to the Stanford Elementary School, connecting with the church property. In November of 1952 a parsonage was purchased on Crestline Drive. Finances increased rapidly to the extent that the first phase of a three-phase plant was built. The first unit, fellowship hall and chapel, consisted of a chapel, classrooms, nursery, and a large fellowship hall and kitchen. In the years of operation the church has increased to a total membership of 305, with plans to build the educational building in 1956.

The growth of the church has been due not only to the increase of newcomers to Donelson, but to the concerted efforts of a prayerful and dedicated fellowship of believers.

CARROLL J. HICKMAN, *Pastor*

GLENCLIFF

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

The Glencliff Methodist Church was begun under the leadership of Rev. J. Dallas Bass, superintendent of the Nashville District. Bishop Paul B. Kern gave great assistance and support to Rev. Bass in his work of locating new churches in the Nashville area.

In the spring of 1951, the Rev. Bass decided that there should be a Methodist church located in the Glencliff-Thompson Lane section. Rev. Charles G. Ashcraft, a student in Vanderbilt University, was appointed April 8, 1951, to visit throughout the community and organize a church. After several weeks of visiting from house to house, the people became interested in the new church. On Sunday, June 3, 1951, the church was organized. The opening service was held in a residence, at 2700 Hartford Drive, near Thompson Lane. The Rev. Ashcraft preached the first sermon for the church at this time. There were present for the church school thirty-four and twenty-six for the worship service at 11:00 A.M. After the service, the district superintendent conducted the organizational meeting of the new church and proceeded to elect stewards and trustees. Members of the first board of stewards were Willard Bonee, George Johnson, Paul Fly, and W. T. Underwood. Trustees elected were George Johnson, Willard Bonee, and Paul Fly.

In about six weeks after the organization, the church rented a residence at 2818 Ennis Road, which had a large basement where the services could be held. The minister and wife lived in this house. The temporary name of the church was "East Thompson Lane" Methodist Church.

The First Quarterly Conference was held August 12, 1951. George Johnson, chairman of the board, made a report expressing faith in the future of the new church. The following persons were elected stewards and became members of the official board: J. L. Bryan, Buford Fields, and W. C. Fuqua.

Charter Members: The closing date for charter members was September 1, 1951. The following persons are charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Willard Bonee, George Edd, Nancy and Ronnie Bonee, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Christiansen, Jacob and Rita Christiansen, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bryan, Mr. and Mrs. George Johnson, Paul Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fly, Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Underwood, Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Peyton, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Fuqua, Mr. and Mrs. Buford Fields, Mr. and Mrs. Joe B. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Hasten, and Mrs. J. D. Johnson. There are twenty-nine charter members.

First Annual Conference Report: The Rev. Ashcraft made the following report to annual conference in September: Members of the church, thirty; enrollment in the church school, sixty-one; paid for salary, \$875; house rent and all other items, \$530. This closes the first five months of the church history.

Beginning the Year 1951-52: Bishop Roy H. Short was assigned to the Tennessee Conference. Rev. W. C. Westenberger was appointed superintendent of the Nashville District. The Rev. Ashcraft was re-appointed as part-time minister.

New Name: Early in this year the name of the church was changed to "Glencliff" which remains the permanent name.

Church Site Purchased: Early in November the Board of Missions and Church Extension of the Nashville District purchased the six acre site at Thompson Lane and Glencliff Road. The purchase price was \$5,000 with a cash payment of \$1,500.

Woman's Society of Christian Service: The organization of the W.S.C.S. was held November 2, 1951. Mrs. Pickens Johnson presided and helped complete the organization with less than ten members.

Church Location Changes Again: The church secured the use of Whitsett school building about the middle of December. The church school and preaching services were held in this building from Sunday, January 6, 1952, through January 2, 1955.

Plans for the Building Program: Sometime during the spring or early summer of 1952, the church employed James M. Wilson as architect for the proposed building. He worked out a complete plan for both the educational units and the sanctuary. It was in the design or shape of the letter "Y" and to be located near the top of the hill. This was a long-time planning program. The small church could undertake to build only one unit of the educational building. The size of this was 111x43 feet.

On Sunday, July 27, 1952, the "ground breaking" service took place. After much work through solid rock the footings were completed during the month of August.

Second Annual Conference Report: The conference journal gives this report: Membership of the Church, thirty-eight; the Church school, ninety-eight; total amount paid for all purposes, \$4,026.

*The Conference Year 1952-53—New Minister—*Rev. Richard Rice was appointed minister of Glencliff Church. He was already employed by the editorial department of the General Board of Education. He accepted the appointment with the understanding that he could give only part-time service.

During this year the church made no special progress toward the building program, but received quite a number of people into the church.

The Third Annual Conference Report: Church membership reported, fifty-seven; Church school enrollment, eighty-three; total amount paid for all purposes, \$4,054.

*Conference Year 1953-54—New Minister—*Rev. W. Oliver Largen was appointed the minister for this year. He was the first full-time minister.

General Plans and Objectives: Soon after the Rev. Largen arrived on the charge, he called the leadership of the church together that

they might face the new year, make plans, and set up certain definite objectives.

The Plans and Objectives submitted and adopted were:

I. To erect an office building on the church lot. There was no place on the lot for any kind of meeting or a study for the minister. This office 14x24 was built in October. The first meeting held in the building was the first quarterly conference on November 4, 1953.

II. To promote a program of evangelism and membership cultivation. Special consideration and promotion were to be given to Visitation and Educational Evangelism.

III. A better organized and more effective religious educational program to be carried out as set up in the Commission on Education.

IV. A financial system that would meet the ever increasing demand made upon this new church. The budget of the church and the large building program demanded sacrificial giving. (Liberal and systematic giving with the use of the weekly envelope plan was finally adopted.) The success and progress of the Glenclyff Church for two years was largely due to this program.

The building committee, with Warren Waller as its chairman, and the official board decided to erect a frame building with brick veneer. During the two months of this year there was a movement toward using concrete blocks and later finish with brick veneer. The quarterly conference on November 4, 1953, voted unanimously to make the changes as above mentioned. This Conference also voted to increase the amount of borrowed money from \$8,000 to \$15,000. D. Y. Causey was employed as the general contractor. They proceeded to complete plans and begin the first unit of an estimated \$175,000 church. There were many things that came up from time to time which delayed, entirely too long, the erection of this first unit. Many remember this long delay with deep regret.

During the last two months of 1953 and the first four months of 1954, the church made special efforts in visitation and securing new members. The commission on education also increased the enrollment and attendance of the church school. There were fifteen or twenty additions to the membership of the church during this period.

The building committee, composed of Warren Waller, chairman; Willard Bonee, W. L. Helton, George Johnson, Mrs. J. M. Christiansen and Ralph Green, gave much time and work changing plans and getting ready to begin the erection of the first unit.

March 28, 1954, just before sunset, chairs were placed near the footings of the building and thirty-seven people came out for this special service. The minister brought a message of assurance that the church under the leadership of the building committee, would in the very near future begin work on the building. The thirty-seven

people present wrote their names on the historical records. During the spring and summer most all the evening services were held on the hill top.

The quarterly conference added the name of Ralph Green to the building committee in February, 1954. The contract was given to D. Y. Causey on the cost-plus basis. This first unit, 111x43 feet, has the following room plans: The building contains an auditorium that will seat from 175 to 200 people. There is a fair-size kitchen at the rear of the building. There are some eight or ten departments, rooms, and office, and two rest rooms. The building has concrete block walls, partitions, and concrete floor. The brick veneering and finishing of the floor are not included in the present plans. The advance loan of \$15,000 was made July 6, 1954.

Sunday, August 22, was a high day in the life of the church. The Rev. Largen brought the message at 11:00 A.M. and R. B. Rawls preached on the hill top at the evening hour.

Membership of the church, ninety-one; church school enrollment, 134 (thirty-seven added during the year). Amount paid for all purposes, \$6,638; value of the property is \$15,382.

Conference Year 1954-55: The Rev. W. O. Largen returned for another year. The church began immediately to give new life and inspiration for the three chief interests of the continued program. First: Finish the building at an early date; second: Organize the official board and all commissions for a more effective and progressive system for the leadership; third: To develop a deeper spiritual life in the membership of the church and thus secure a more loyal support to the total program of the church.

The First Service: The first service in the new building was held Sunday evening, January 2, 1955. The Reverend Largen used for a text, Exodus 14:15. The subject "Go Forward" was suitable for the hour. There were forty-eight people present and their names are filed with the historical papers.

The Official Opening, January 9, 1955: The church school attendance was 140. The minister used for the subject at the eleven o'clock service, "The Church's One Foundation." Rev. W. C. Westerberger was the speaker for the official opening in the afternoon. Rev. Charles Ashcraft, the first minister of the church, led the prayer. The declaration was read by the pastor. We use just two sentences of it here: "In the name of God and in the presence of this congregation I do now declare this church to be open for the worship of God and the service of men. May it be a house of prayer for all people."

On February 9 the pastor had a heart attack that sent him to the hospital for several days and kept him at home with a nurse for several weeks. Rev. W. C. Westerberger took over the work of the

church for some weeks, doing the preaching and securing others to help. After a few weeks they secured Rev. Fred Cloud as assistant minister for about four months. He carried the work on in a most satisfactory way.

The last service of the pastor before his heart attack was Sunday, February 6. He preached on the subject of "Sacrificial Living" and conducted the Holy Communion. Then on Tuesday, the eighth, the minister and members of the commission on membership and evangelism went out two and two visiting. Reverend Largen returned home late and soon after midnight had the attack. It was June 26 when the Reverend Cloud closed his ministry with the Glencliff Church and the regular minister assumed full responsibilities.

Early in the conference year the minister and the commission on evangelism, along with the official board, decided to close the year with a revival meeting. The date was August 18-28. Rev. Fred Blankenship did the preaching and Fred Bonney led the singing.

These groups were very well organized and plans made for the next year before annual conference met in September. There were twenty-three members added to the church during the year which made sixty during the two years of Reverend Largen's pastorate.

Fifth Annual Conference: The report showed a church membership of 106; church school enrollment, 195; paid for all purposes, \$14,963; value of property: lot, \$10,000; building, \$25,000; chairs, furniture, kitchen equipment, etc., \$3,000; total, \$38,000.

Rev. Floyd Blankenship was appointed the minister of Glencliff Church in September, 1955. He and the family moved into a rented house on Mimosa Drive.

On October 25, the church purchased a parsonage at 3370 Mimosa Drive. It is a six-room, full-basement house only a few blocks from both the church and school building. It cost \$12,000 and was considered a good buy.

The minister received twenty-six members into the church Sunday, December 11, 1955, bringing the total membership of the church to 132.

REV. WILLIAM OLIVER LARGEN, *Historian*

VALLEY HOME

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

On November 15, 1953, the pastor, R. C. Woodard, called the Valley Home community together for the purpose of organizing a Methodist Sunday school. This meeting was in the schoolhouse.

Forty-seven were present, and W. J. Rieder, Jr., was elected superintendent. Teachers for the different classes were elected also.

Upon request of this Sunday school the pastor of the Pelham Circuit, R. C. Woodard, called another meeting on the twentieth of December 1953 at six o'clock P.M. for the purpose of organizing a Methodist church. A motion was made by W. J. Rieder, Jr., to organize a church and was seconded by Mrs. Rachel Jacobs. The pastor called the question: Who shall be charter members of this church? The following responded: Mrs. Rachel Jacobs, Mrs. Ruby Sartin, Mr. Joe Sartin, Mrs. Edna W. Bonner, Mrs. Bettie A. Jacobs, Mrs. Dessie W. Aylor, Mr. Henry Jacobs, Mrs. Loucille Goodman, Mr. W. J. Rieder, Jr., Mrs. Anna W. Roper, Mrs. Alma Hinley, Mrs. Nannie R. Parks, Mr. R. B. Cox, Mr. Buford Partin, Mrs. Jewel P. Partin, Mrs. Ruby P. Long, Mr. Dean Long, Mrs. Vivian H. Clay, Mrs. Nannie H. Goodman, Mrs. Mary S. Raulston. The four commissions were then elected, the stewards, and church secretary, after which the pastor preached a sermon on "The Church, Its Purpose, Its Privileges, Its Fellowship, and Its Function."

On January 12, 1954, Rev. Alvis J. Davis, superintendent of the Murfreesboro District, met with us in the old Aylor Store House to complete the organization of the church and make it official. At this meeting we elected the trustees of church property.

In April 1954 a basement was built for a new church, and from November of 1954 through May of 1955 the new sanctuary was built, the work being done by the men of the church.

We have received substantial help from the Thousand Club, from Bethel Church, from Alto Church, and from Providence Church.

R. C. WOODARD, *Pastor*

NEW SHORT MOUNTAIN

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

New Short Mountain was organized at the fourth Quarterly Conference in August, 1953, by the District Superintendent, Rev. S. D. Organ, and the pastor, Rev. E. W. Doggett. It is located on an acre of land donated by Mr. C. Neal midway between Smithville and Woodbury on Highway 143. The building was begun in October, 1953, and the first service was conducted the third Sunday in June, 1954, by Rev. W. E. Schaerer.

The new church is a combination of Osment Chapel which was a former Methodist Episcopal church. Its first building was a log house erected in 1874. The land and logs were donated by William Melton Osment. This log building was used until 1905 when it was con-

demned. Services were held in the school building until the erection of a new church building in 1920-23. Also, Tucker's Chapel, a former congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at Cross Roads entered into the New Short Mountain Church. Tucker's Chapel was organized by Rev. Martin R. Tucker, a member of the Tennessee Conference, in 1888-90. Tucker's Chapel came out of an older church known as "Gumsprings Church," which was abandoned in 1880. It must have been organized about the close of the Civil War.

The church memberships of Osmel Chapel, Tucker's Chapel and twelve members from Old Short Mountain made a total membership at the organization of New Short Mountain of ninety-seven, which has now grown to 113. The new building is of concrete block and brick construction, full-size basement, beautiful sanctuary, assembly room, and four classrooms, oil furnace heat, which cost \$18,000.00. The future for New Short Mountain is bright and the unification a great success.

W. E. SCHAEERER, *Pastor*

HILLDALE

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

Hilldale Methodist Church in Clarksville was organized August 15, 1954, at a meeting called for that purpose at Madison Street Methodist Church under the supervision of Rev. H. T. Tipps, District Superintendent. The following were present and became the first members of the new congregation: Mr. and Mrs. William Shoemaker, Mr. and Mrs. William Cloud, Mr. and Mrs. John Shrader, Mr. and Mrs. George Grise, Mrs. Charlie Adkins, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Seay, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Goodrich, Mr. and Mrs. James Hinton, Mr. and Mrs. Clay Cline, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Chester Cherry, Mr. and Mrs. John Moorefield, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. James Roush, Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Bibb, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Riggs Hayes, Mr. and Mrs. Gilford Adkins, and Mr. and Mrs. Ewing Troutt. Also present was the Rev. J. Dallas Bass, pastor of Madison Street.

The new church was given a pastor, the Rev. Ben F. Binkley, by the Annual Conference and started holding regular meetings in Moore Elementary School the first Sunday in September. A lot has been purchased and ground-breaking ceremonies for the new building were held April 30. The value of the property when construction is completed in October, 1955, will be \$130,000.00. This amount has been secured by pledges of the members and an apportionment of part of the building funds raised at Madison Street Church last year. The membership has grown from the original thirty-seven to 130.

MRS. GEORGE C. GRISE, *Historian*

METHODIST INSTITUTIONS IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE

- 1848—Clarksville Female Academy, Clarksville
- 1850—Tennessee Conference Female Institute, Columbia
- 1851—Soule Female College, Murfreesboro
- 1852—Tennessee Conference Male Institute, Franklin
- 1852—Pulaski Female School, Pulaski (not connected with Martin College)
- 1866—Corona Female Academy
- 1866—Culleoka Female Institute, Culleoka
- 1870—Martin College, Pulaski
- 1872—Central University, Nashville (became Vanderbilt University, June 16, 1873; opened October 8, 1875; lost by the Church, 1914)
- 1894—Cedar Hill Institute, Cedar Hill
- 1900—Monterey Institute, Monterey
- 1905—Missionary Training School, Nashville (Board of Missions)
- 1908—Baxter Seminary, Baxter
- 1910—Summer School for Christian Workers, Bon Aqua, 1910; Ovoca, 1913; Cumberland Mountain School, 1928, Beersheba Springs, 1941
- 1914—W. T. Thomas School, Cumberland City
- 1919—Cumberland Mountain School, Crossville
- 1919—Galloway Memorial Hospital, Nashville (never in operation)
- 1927—Scarritt College, Nashville

Prior to 1870, North Alabama was part of the Tennessee Conference. The following institutions were in that part of the Conference:

- 1848—Tennessee Conference Female Institute, Athens
- 1848—Lagrange College, Lagrange (one-third interest)
- 1851—Bascom Female Institute, Huntsville
- 1866—Florence Wesleyan University, Florence

SUMMER CONFERENCE FOR CHRISTIAN WORKERS

The Summer Conference for Christian Workers pioneered in American Protestantism by the Tennessee Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, through forty-five years has grown into an institution. Following is a brief survey of this development:

Early in the year 1910, Rev. Paul B. Kern, Mr. Felix M. Massey, Mr. Charles H. Yarbrough and possibly one or two others, all Christian young men of the highest type, conceived a plan of a summer conference for young people. So far as was known, nothing like it had ever been attempted in the church. The first conference was held

in the summer of 1910 at Bon Aqua Springs in Hickman County, Tennessee. No records of this conference are available and it was not reported at the Annual Conference in 1910 in Clarksville. It was commended in the annual report of the Board of Missions.

The second Conference for Christian Workers was also held at Bon Aqua Springs in 1911, under the same management with possibly two or three additional recruits. No reference was made to it at the Annual Conference in Columbia, October, 1911, by the Board of Missions, Board of Education, or the Sunday School Board. The report of the Epworth League Board made the following statement: "The Summer Conference for Christian Workers has come to stay, and is one of our most valued agencies for training workers in all departments of Church work." This was truly a prophetic statement.

The third session of the conference was held at Ruskin Cave in 1912. No report of the Summer Conference was made at the Annual Conference in 1912 at McKendree Methodist Church in Nashville, nor was it referred to by the Conference Boards in their reports. However, the same young men with additional recruits were perfecting plans for greater conferences in the future.

The fourth session of the Summer Conference for Christian Workers was held at Ovoca, near Tullahoma, which belonged to the Knights of Pythias, in the summer of 1913. Ovoca was adopted for the permanent home of the Summer Conference. A lease for ninety-nine years was secured from the Knights of Pythias. Plans were perfected for the erection of a building suitable for the Summer Conference. Committees were appointed, a Board of Managers was elected, money began to come in and soon Friendship Hall was beginning to take form.

From 1913 to 1927, Ovoca was a family and church name in the Tennessee Conference. It was the subject of conversation and addresses in Epworth League meetings, Sunday schools, Missionary Societies and in the family circle from one Summer Conference to another. From three to four hundred young people gathered there annually. Young people played together, studied together, planned their lives together, fell in love, married and set up Christian homes. The assembly was in charge of the finest Christian leadership the Annual Conference could provide. Other denominations caught the spirit of the Methodist Summer Conference for Christian Workers, and engaged time each summer until finally the entire summer was taken up.

Mr. C. H. Yarbrough, president of the Board of Control of the Summer Conference, made the following statements in his report to the Annual Conference in Franklin, October 13-17, 1927: "The Methodist Summer Conference for Christian Workers, heretofore

inadvertently called Ovoca Conference, had one of its best sessions at Ovoca in July, 1927. By agreement between the Board of Control of the Summer Conference and the Board of Trustees of our Cumberland Mountain School, it is planned to move the site of our conference to Cumberland Mountain School next July, when we hope to have even a better conference than heretofore and at the same time help to improve our own Methodist property, and by bringing our young people and others into direct touch with the school to create a greater interest in this great institution among our people."

The nineteenth session of the Summer Conference for Christian Workers was held at the Cumberland Mountain School in July, 1928. Rev. A. J. Morgan, who had long been a member of the Board of Control, read the report, which said: "The Board considers this meeting one of the best in its history for both spirit and attendance. Brother Paty and Mrs. Paty (Raymon Paty, president of the school), and their young students were untiring in their efforts to make every delegate happy and contented. The food was the best ever furnished our conference. Our next meeting at Crossville is scheduled to continue seven days, beginning July 2, 1929."

The doors of Cumberland Mountain School were closed with the commencement of 1938. Between the close of the school and the opening of Beersheba Springs in the summer of 1942, the summer assemblies for Christian workers were conducted in the educational institutions located in Columbia, Spring Hill and Pulaski. The momentum created in former years maintained high enrollments in spite of no regular permanent place of meeting.

At the Annual Conference of 1940, West End Methodist Church, Nashville, a committee was appointed to locate a suitable place for assemblies during the summer since the Cumberland Mountain School had ceased to exist as a conference institution. (Fire had destroyed the boys' dormitory and other factors entered into its closing.) When the Annual Conference met at McKendree Methodist Church in 1941, the Committee on Camp and Assembly Grounds recommended the purchase of historic Beersheba Springs for \$3,000.00. This abandoned summer resort was one of the famous places in Middle Tennessee before the War Between the States. In this report the committee said:

"Your committee is of the opinion that this assembly grounds would afford the Tennessee Conference adequate facilities for the various programs which it might desire to put into operation during the summer months."

Beersheba Springs is located ninety-three miles from Nashville, Tennessee, in the Cumberland Mountains, twenty-one miles from

McMinnville, on a paved highway with daily bus service. It has an elevation of 2,200 feet overlooking the valley of Collins River. The property consists of twenty-two acres of land, one large hotel building and thirty-seven cabins. The Tennessee Conference approved the recommendations of the committee. Rev. O. B. Johnson, Mr. E. H. Ayers, Mr. C. H. Yarbrough, Rev. H. E. Baker, and Rev. C. B. Cook negotiated the deal with the owners—Miss Nell Farrar of Tullahoma and her sister, Mrs. Mary Griswold, as private individuals secured the contract for the deed made to themselves, with the expressed purpose of transferring to the Annual Conference if approved, which was done.

Work was begun on the Beersheba Springs property in the early summer of 1942. Provision was made for the Intermediate Camp, Youth Assembly, Pastors' School, Young Adult Assembly, and Children's Workers' Camp for the summer. And again the Summer Conference for Christian Workers had a home. The following persons helped to develop the program in the early days at Beersheba Springs at different times, on various committees and in many conferences: Bishop Paul B. Kern, Rev. O. B. Johnson, Rev. E. L. Crump, Rev. W. M. Cook, Rev. Dean Stroud, Mr. Herbert Luton, Mr. E. H. Ayers, Mr. C. H. Yarbrough, Rev. H. E. Baker, Rev. C. B. Cook, Rev. A. J. Davis, Rev. B. G. Hodge, Rev. E. C. Shelton, Rev. John L. Ferguson, Mr. Martin Gribble, and Mr. G. W. Comer. Mr. Charles H. Yarbrough in this list is the only one living who cooperated in the organization of the Summer Conference for Christian Workers forty-five years ago.

The results of the work at Beersheba Springs since 1942 have increased from year to year. Following is a brief summary of activities for the summer of 1955 at Beersheba except as indicated:

Methodist Student Conference, Crossville	81
Wesleyan Service Guild	61
Laymen's Conference	305
Clarksville District Institute	205
Murfreesboro District Intermediate Camp	204
Pastors' School	153
Older Youth Assembly	51
Senior Youth Assembly	231
Nashville District Intermediate Camp No. 1	81
Nashville District Intermediate Camp No. 2	70
Cookeville District Intermediate Camp	89
Columbia-Mt. Pleasant District Intermediate Camp	140
Cumberland District Intermediate Camp	96
Children's Workers' Conference	109
Church School Administration Conference	30

School of Missions	154
Wesleyan Service Guild Conference	162
Kern Camp Meeting	90
Mt. Pleasant District Youth Retreat Na-Co-Me	127
Young Adult Conference	139
Older Adult Conference	49
<hr/>	
Total enrollment	2,621
C. B. COOK, <i>Historian</i>	

MARTIN COLLEGE
PULASKI, TENNESSEE

The history of Martin College is a series of bright prospects and dismal failures. From a significant beginning in 1870 as the first school for girls in Giles County, Martin College has survived the perils of the reconstruction era, the vicissitudes of three wars, the hard times of several depressions, and after fourscore years is firmly entrenched in the hearts and lives of Middle Tennessee Methodists as a fully accredited junior college.

It was the love of a father for his daughter and the granting of her dying wish for a school for girls that made possible the founding in 1870 of Martin College, first known as Martin Female College. Thomas Martin, an outstanding Methodist citizen of Pulaski and the son of a Virginia Methodist minister, stated in his will that the income from \$30,000.00 in state bonds was to be used "for the purchasing of grounds and erecting a suitable building for a Female College." In addition \$5,000.00 in cash was to be used for the new school by the trustees of the college.

The first board of trustees was elected by the board of stewards of First Methodist Church, Pulaski, then located on the corner of Second and West Washington Streets. Classes were held in the basement of the church and the first graduating exercises for four young ladies were in the church auditorium under the leadership of the first president, William K. Jones.

The trustees first bought twenty-eight acres of the Carter tract on West Hill, but later sold this to John C. Brown as part payment on the present college property. The new location included seven acres with a beautiful colonial residence which became the home of Martin College in 1875 under President R. H. Rivers of Louisville, Kentucky, who had succeeded Professor Jones in 1874. After a year additions were made to the building in the amount of \$10,000.00. Uniforms were adopted for boarding students in 1876.

Professor Jones returned to Martin College in 1879 and remained until 1884. "Caged Doves Set Free" was the expression used in *The Pulaski Citizen* in describing the graduating exercises at Martin College during this period.

Music became an integral part of the college curriculum in 1884 when Prof. Joseph L. Armstrong became president.

In 1885-90 the college was leased to Miss Ida E. Hood and Miss Susan L. Heron, a Quaker and a Presbyterian, who managed the school for two years. They later leased the Belmont property in Nashville and founded Ward-Belmont.

Rev. R. M. Saunders followed Miss Hood and Miss Heron as president of Martin College. He leased the college for four years at \$500.00 a year.

Two one-year administrations followed in 1894 and 1895—Miss Alice Foxworthy and Miss Judith Steele, formerly of the Nashville School for Young Ladies.

Rev. S. M. Barker became president of the faculty and principal of the college in 1896. The curriculum at that time included history, mathematics, four foreign languages, English, literature, stenography, bookkeeping, typing, elocution, gymnastics, art and music. There was a primary department conducted by Miss Sallie Shapard. This was one of the brighter periods of Martin College history and the Board in 1898 issued bonds for \$20,000.00 to enlarge, extend, and improve the plant. Prof D. W. Dodson was elected president in 1898.

The cornerstone for the new addition to the college was laid in 1898 and John S. Wilkes, president of the board of trustees, stated that the property of the college was valued at \$60,000.00 and the future of the school was bright with promise.

But the plans did not materialize. Professor Dodson left the school before the close of the term, the college lost the rent for the year, and the faculty went unpaid. This began a period of misfortune, for it was hard to secure students or teachers for the next term.

Prof. L. L. Vann of Mississippi opened the school in 1899 under a new board of trustees. This was a hard year for the new president and the new board. Attendance was small, epidemics in the county occurred, and the school closed in January.

In 1900 B. E. Atkins and Thomas L. Bryant tried to make the college pay, but they were unsuccessful. Dr. B. F. Haynes came to the college in 1902 and under his capable management the school began to build up and prospects were bright until October, 1904, when Martin College, the pride of Pulaski and Giles County, burned to the ground.

Two days after the college burned the board of trustees met to plan for the rebuilding of the college. Lots south of the college were

sold and, together with money from insurance on the old building and donations from local citizens, the cornerstone of historic Martin Hall was laid in 1905. The school reopened in 1907 under the presidency of Mrs. J. H. Jennings, widow of a Methodist minister.

A resolution was presented to the Annual Conference meeting in Clarksville in 1907 asking for more cordial relations between the college and the Conference. The college board of trustees transferred most of the college property to the Tennessee Methodist Conference for \$18,000.00.

Prof. W. T. Wynn became president in 1908 and under his guidance and the interest of the Methodist Conference the college made rapid progress. The student body became so large that in 1912 a drive for funds for a new dormitory was launched. Tennessee Hall was erected in 1913.

Professor Wynn stayed ten years and was succeeded in 1919 by Dr. George A. Morgan, a minister of the Tennessee Conference who had formerly served the Pulaski Church. A fine businessman and a learned scholar, Dr. Morgan remained at Martin until 1930 when he rejoined the pastorate. He left the college in better condition than ever before, free of debt, and with the largest enrollment in several years.

In 1930 Prof. Sinclair Daniel became president. During his stay of seven years the gymnasium was built.

A chancery court ruling made possible the admission of boys to Martin College in 1937. Dr. K. L. Rudolph became president of Martin College in 1937.

A called session of the Annual Conference in June, 1941, was for the purpose of considering the future of the educational institutions of the Tennessee Conference. The *Journal* of 1941 states that the history of Martin College "is a story of struggle and discouragement and because of that very fact Martin College has not rendered to the Conference as a whole the service of which, with more generous patronage and support, it might have been capable."

It was recommended that the Tennessee Conference take action authorizing a merger with Lambuth College effective in June, 1941. Unlimited debate followed, petitions for continuance of Martin College were presented, and a compromise motion was passed that the Conference "take action looking toward a merger of Martin College and Lambuth or some other institution after 1942."

The regular session of the Annual Conference in October, 1941, reconsidered the action of the June meeting and launched a campaign for \$100,000.00 for Martin College. The response was beyond the anticipations of the Conference leaders and \$113,816.00 was secured. The 1942 *Journal* states that "we have not witnessed in this genera-

tion such unanimity of spirit. . . it is our conviction that it has produced a unity and assurance among our people that will justify all our efforts."

In the face of war the college continued with hopes undimmed. College Day began to be observed in churches throughout the Conference with an offering for Martin College.

A campaign for \$250,000.00 was approved by the 1946 Annual Conference—\$200,000.00 for Martin College and \$50,000.00 for Baxter Seminary. The goal was declared to be in sight at the 1947 Annual Conference.

Presidents after Dr. Rudolph included J. H. Swann in 1941, Dr. R. B. Stone in 1942, then Bishop Kern, assisted by Rev. Frank Calhoun and Dr. W. B. Ricks, 1943-44. Mr. E. H. Elam became president in 1944 and the college seemed to be on the road to prosperity with many veterans of World War II enrolled and with an increased allotment from the Tennessee Conference.

Dr. Joseph D. Quillian, Jr., became president in 1950 and during his administration two of the most outstanding achievements were full accreditation of Martin College by the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges and stronger conference support.

A resolution to move Martin College to Lebanon was defeated by the 1954 session of the Annual Conference. The Rev. J. Fort Fowler assumed the presidency, and the school year 1954-55 began at Pulaski with an enrollment of 160 regular students, sixteen members of the faculty and administration, and the expressed cooperation of the church people of the Tennessee Conference and the citizens of Giles County.

God must have intended that there be a Martin College, for it has survived more than eighty years and is looking forward to an even brighter future.

The words of John S. Wilkes at the laying of the cornerstone in 1898 re-echo down the years: "We want your help, your support, your influence, your good will, your kind words. We call upon every student and patron of the college, every citizen of the county and every friend of Martin College. Don't imagine that you can fold your hands and let it die from indifference; that has been tried and failed. Don't imagine that you can ignore it and that it will wither here in this beautiful grove. Long after you have been laid to rest in Maplewood, Martin College will be flourishing and growing and long after you are forgotten it will be sending out its influence to brighten the homes and hearts of thousands who live after you."

Martin Hall was destroyed by fire January 31, 1956. Plans were made by the trustees to rebuild immediately.

MRS. J. FORT FOWLER, *Historian*

THE VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Vanderbilt University was established in 1875. In the words of its founder it was dedicated in part "to strengthening the ties that should exist between all sections of our common country." The School of Religion was one of the original departments of the University. For many years it occupied one of the most prominent buildings in the heart of the campus—Wesley Hall. During its first forty years the School was the only theological Seminary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and as such trained many of its most effective leaders, including many of the great missionary leaders of that church.

Difficulties in operation led to the separation in 1914 of the University from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. This separation was almost fatal to the School of Religion, which was left with neither constituency nor support. There ensued for this School a period of depression which lasted for about twenty years. Many difficulties were encountered in the long and arduous task of developing an interdenominational theological school in a climate of extreme denominational loyalties. These difficulties were increased and the School's period of adversity lengthened by the loss of its building by fire in 1932.

The last twenty years of the School have been a time of remarkable recovery. In 1936 the School began to operate on a strictly graduate basis, admitting only college graduates to its classes and degrees. With a strengthened program it won prompt recognition by the American Association of Theological Schools.

Although this School is under University control and direction, it is committed primarily to the training of pulpit ministers for the Protestant churches. The student body in the current year represents eighteen different denominations. Within the faculty six branches of the Church are represented. Through the action of the Tennessee Conference in September, 1955, and the Vanderbilt Board of Trust in October of the same year, a closer cooperative relationship between the School and the Tennessee Conference was officially recognized.

The Sealantic Fund, which through the generosity of Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., has been interested in strengthening theological education, in December, 1955, made a grant of \$2,900,000.00 to the School conditional upon the University's raising \$1,000,000.00 for new and adequate physical housing for the new program. This grant, together with the present funds of the School, will provide an endowment of approximately \$4,300,000.00.

The plans which have been worked out call for an expansion of enrollment to 300 students or approximately 100 graduates per year, for the addition of professorships in church administration, preaching, and pastoral work, for additional instructors in the fields of Bible, theology, and church history, for the strengthening of the School's library, including the lending library for ministers in the field, for some additional scholarships, for an annual convocation of ministers, and for funds to cover other teaching needs and public services of the School.

JOHN KEITH BENTON, *Dean*

BAXTER SEMINARY

COOKEVILLE DISTRICT

Baxter Seminary is located at Baxter, Tennessee, nine miles west of Cookeville, an educational institution of the former Methodist Episcopal Church. The unification of American Methodism placed this institution in the program of the new Tennessee Annual Conference of The Methodist Church.

Prior to the organization of Baxter Seminary, the Methodist Episcopal Church conducted a small mission school at Summertown, Tennessee, one at Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee, and one at Bloomington Springs, Tennessee. They were very small mission schools, not much better than grammar school level, and were conducted only a few years each.

When the three mission schools went out of existence, the citizens of Baxter requested the Methodist Episcopal Church to help in the organization of a school for that area. The plan was finally approved, work was begun and Baxter Seminary opened its doors in the fall of 1908, with only the ground floor in the present Girls' Hall, the main educational building for the following fifteen years, ready for use. The second story was added in 1909, and the third and fourth stories were added in 1910.

Soon after the opening of the new school in 1908, all that was left of the three defunct mission schools was brought to Baxter Seminary. The total amount was not over a thousand dollars. The old bell used at the Summertown School is now on the Girls' Hall tower at Baxter Seminary. The books in the Red Boiling Springs school library were moved also to Baxter. They were old, small print and of little use. Some of them are keepsakes.

For a period of fifteen years, 1908 to 1923, Baxter Seminary had three presidents: S. E. Ryan served three years, Frank S. Ditto served five years, and Patton R. Broyles served seven years.

When Dr. Harry L. Upperman became president June 23, 1923, the property was valued at \$35,013.00, with an indebtedness of \$5,000.00. There were four teachers and fifty-seven students. Thirty-seven students lived within a radius of three miles from the school, plus eight boys and twelve girls living in the dormitories. For twenty-five years, Dr. and Mrs. Upperman "through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises," and performed miracles.

The Advisory Committee of the Board of Trustees, school year of 1954-55, submits these facts: Administration: There are eleven members in the board of trustees composed of pastors and laymen of Tennessee Conference; president, dean, secretary and staff workers—six; faculty—twenty; students—387. Plant: Eight major buildings, eight residences, ten auxiliary structures; about 270 acres, campus and farm. Value: \$552,800.00. Endowment—\$214,367.00; no capital indebtedness. Baxter Seminary is a *Service Center* in secondary school training, with eighteen complete academic courses, plus vocational agriculture (school farm), truck farming, home economics, Bible department, stenography, bookkeeping, office practice, music, speech, dramatics, masonry, vocational trades department, general building trades, carpentry, plumbing, mechanical drawings, and blueprint study and self-help workshops available to all worthy students.

Baxter Seminary now covers: Ivy Hall for Girls, Pfeiffer Administration Building, Health and Physical Education Plant, the Ward Hall for Boys, D.A.R. Health House, Merner Science Hall, farm of 280 acres, three barns, seven homes for faculty members and staff members, an orchard, Library (volumes 4,116), Trade School with two buildings and all required equipment, central heating plant, summer school site at Center Hill Dam Lake, football field, planned Odell Civic Park in progress on campus land set aside, with chapel-to-be as next dream.

The president secures financial aid from the Board of Education of The Methodist Church, the Tennessee Conference Board of Education, various churches, classes, clubs, groups of friends, and individuals, gifts of money, material, coal and services rendered free, keeping the budget balanced yearly.

At the author's request, Dr. Upperman prepared the following description of activities at Baxter Seminary: "At the present time there are 387 enrolled, of whom 204 are boys and 183 girls. About twenty veterans are now enrolled in regular secondary school courses. The curricula is that of an A-1 secondary school and is so listed by the Department of Education of the State of Tennessee. It is a member of the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges and is approved by the University Senate of The Methodist Church, also

Mid-South Association of Independent Schools, and the Central States Association of Secondary Schools."

"Baxter Seminary specializes in a self-help program in which much emphasis is placed upon constructive building. Not only do the students work their way through to a considerable degree in these days of high prices, especially if the student is worthy and in need of such self-help service, but the student has the privilege of making beautiful, as well as useful, articles, creating buildings, erecting houses, barns and school structures.

"On the campus of Baxter Seminary, through student labor under the self-help program, the following buildings have largely been erected: the Trades School, the Boys' Hall, with each additional wing having been added as needed; the Health House, and to a considerable degree, a gymnasium, now planned anew; a great deal of Pfeiffer Administration-Academic Building and various faculty homes. Also done by student help are four of the five houses upon the campus which were remodeled by the students under faculty supervision.

"Much attention is paid to the health of the faculty and students, and for that purpose the Health House is under the care of a capable director and has in it twenty-two hospital beds, as well as the regular offices for a doctor and a nurse and two faculty apartments and its own living quarters.

"The religious life of Baxter Seminary is constantly kept at a high level. Under student direction, but with faculty supervision, the students conduct many of the regular daily chapel services, hold prayer meetings in the dormitories, carry on Young Women's Christian Association and the Young Men's Christian Association in both day and evening groups, and the Methodist Youth Fellowship, which has as its president a junior girl, also the chairman of evangelism for the district. Daily Bible reading is under the direction of the director of Bible and Religious Education Classes, and the presence upon the faculty of returned missionaries who served in Africa and India has aroused a great deal of interest in missionary work. Often students have regular charges and a number plan to study for the ministry, while fifteen graduates within recent years have entered the ministry. Some girls are preparing for the missionary service and other girls are seeking to be nurses and to engage in other forms of Christian service.

"On the faculty at the present time are several graduates of Baxter Seminary, and the two Trades Schools are directed by graduates of Baxter Seminary in those fields. In Putnam and surrounding counties are many teachers who are graduates of Baxter Seminary, while

other graduates are in the business world, farming, office work, and are general, useful citizens of their communities, also in various church activities.

"The girls who have taken Home Economics and kindred subjects have contributed to finer homes and home life in this section of the state. During the recent World War over 400 graduates and former students and faculty members (both men and women) served the nation in all branches of the service.

"The graduates of Baxter Seminary are not only found in all walks of life throughout the Upper Cumberland section but are now spreading across the nation and are found in many industrial centers, thus showing the school has grown away from serving only nearby communities but is serving those needs and also other sections and helping to prepare not only students with academic knowledge but also those who are of service as ministers, doctors, lawyers, bookkeepers, accountants, mechanics, draftsmen, carpenters, bricklayers, blacksmiths, teachers of various farm and trade subjects, vocational directors, and general office workers.

"The school is without debt and is striving hard to remain that way. It is in need of 150 workshops at \$200.00 to \$300.00 each which enable a school to help a boy or girl on the self-help program as the workshop provides the working capital with which the school may operate while the student is getting the benefit of student aid through work.

Members of the faculty and of the student body give time in speaking, singing, preaching, teaching, conducting services to churches over the Conference. Special gospel teams are often taken on a number of special missions.

This brief history has been prepared under the guidance of the Advisory Committee composed of C. S. Jenkins, chairman; W. T. Sewell, Lawrence Grace, Walter Keith Crawford, Luther C. Harris, of the board of trustees of Baxter Seminary, who prepared the data from facts obtained from other trustees, faculty, students and friends in Baxter and elsewhere, and find that President Harry L. Upperman, with his wife, has kept the entire institution on an even financial keel and secured endowment, buildings, equipment, land, which could not be today duplicated by a million dollars. The services rendered to people cannot be valued. This committee believes that as worthy a cause merits aid from every source, in order that \$15,000.00 to \$20,000.00 per year may bring about a balanced budget.

Advisory Committee:

HARRY UPPERMAN, *President*

The Following Church Histories Are Unavoidably Out of Their Chronological Order

PELHAM

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

On February 19, 1823, Solomon King Goodman donated an acre of ground to be used for the purpose of erecting a place of worship for the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. At this time the Pelham community was a part of Franklin County. Aunt Polexie Neville furnished timber for that crude church building. The exact date of its construction is not known, but it was dedicated by Dr. John B. McFerrin, of Nashville, Tennessee. There were about thirty charter members.

In 1856 a larger and better building was constructed. It was dedicated by Rev. Fountain E. Pitts.

During the years of 1903 through 1907 a still larger building was erected on the same site as the other two. This, our present church building, was dedicated by Bishop Hoss.

Since 1883 there have been approximately thirty-eight pastors of the Pelham Church. At different times the Pelham Church has been a part of the Hillsboro and the Monteagle Charges. At the present time it is a part of the Pelham Charge.

In the last few years, new pews, stained-glass windows, and three Sunday school rooms have been added to the present church building, along with interior decorations in the chapel. At the present time, there is a membership of ninety-eight.

DORRIS SMOTHERMAN, *Pastor*

PROVIDENCE

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

Prior to the Civil War, church and Sunday school were conducted in a building called White's School. This was located in Bell's Cove and used as a school building also.

After the war the meeting place was moved to a building where our cemetery now is. It was a log building with split log seats and was used as school and church for a few years and named "Providence."

Joseph Bradshaw and A. C. Smith donated ground for church and school and in 1869 a new church building was erected, with few members.

All leading citizens assisted by donations and labor, including Messrs. Bradshaw and Smith, J. F. Laxson, Daniel Patterson, I. W. Sullivan, G. D. and James Gwinn, Wash Bennett, Martin Powers, S. D. Rowe, Harris, Robert, and Frank Bell, Mose Crouch and a Mr. Walker and others whose names we do not have. This was a huge building with long poles in the center. A circuit rider would visit the church as often as possible. Local preachers helped with the preaching.

In 1907 or 1908, the present building was erected. One room was used for four classes until 1953 when three classrooms were added and the church was remodeled. There is now a membership of seventy-nine and a Sunday school average of eighty. Many ministers, both young and old, have served as pastors, some coming from Hillsboro Circuit, some from Monteagle and, at present, our pastor is from the Pelham Charge.

DORRIS PAYBE SMOTHERMAN, *Pastor*

UNION

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

The first services to be held near the present site of Union Church, near the head waters of Snow Creek, were held at a spring. The first building was made of logs and it was furnished with slab seats.

On September 24, 1859, G. W. Godwin gave land for Union Church. The deed was filed February 6, 1860, and the building was erected in 1886 by George W. Rushton. The trustees were Joseph B. Petty, William M. Lockhart, John Adkisson, Eli R. Beasley, and Bedford K. Shaw.

Four denominations—Methodist, Cumberland Presbyterian, F. W. Baptist, and P. D. Baptist—worshiped here. Each had one week of the month. The Methodists had the first Sunday; the Cumberland Presbyterians, the second Sunday; the F. W. Baptists, the third Sunday; and the P. D. Baptists, the fourth Sunday. At the present time only the Methodists have regular services. They have a good Sunday school and worship services are well attended.

H. H. PARSONS, *Pastor*

EDWARDS GROVE

COLUMBIA DISTRICT

On September 27, 1873, James Edwards gave two acres of land to W. O. Smithson, G. R. Lichen, William N. Smith, D. R. Corlett,

William Tanner, R. C. Reynolds, L. P. Giles, William Mincey, and F. B. Tucker and their successors in office as trustees of the Edwards Grove Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The church was soon complete and was dedicated about 1880. The same building still houses the congregation as they gather for worship. The church is located in the twenty-second district of Williamson County beside a paved road in the Flat Creek community. The history of this church has not been outstanding but has been influential in winning many to Christ and has sent one native son into the ministry. Rev. Tucker Reed left this church and became a Methodist minister in another Conference. The church was constructed while Rev. James H. Richardson was pastor. Other early preachers were W. T. Rowland, C. B. Farris, F. S. Petway, A. F. Lawrence, and O. G. Halliburton. We now have 108 members. About half of this number are non-residents. Several of our number are shut-ins who are unable to attend any longer.

WILLIAM T. BUCKNER, *Pastor*

ALTO

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The original record of the Alto Methodist Church, located in Franklin County, dates back to 1875. There was no church property at this date. Meetings were held in the schoolhouse. Rev. R. L. McBride was pastor. The church was on the Manchester Circuit. Some of the first members were: Mary Sherrill, Martha Bennett, Lucinda Abernathy, James Bryant, Willie Moore, Joseph Ikard, William Gibson, James Gilliam, and J. L. W. Blair.

On June 28, 1879, the first Sunday school was reported with about fifty members. A. J. Ikard was superintendent.

In 1882, the Hillsboro Circuit was organized. The Alto Church became a part of this circuit with Rev. G. D. Gwinn as pastor.

January 22, 1889, J. P. Henley and wife gave a deed to the land on which the present church stands. The property was estimated at \$800.00. In that year the church became a part of the Pelham Circuit. A storm destroyed the original church in 1931; then the present one was built with one large chapel. In 1946 three classrooms were added to the church while the Rev. C. H. Kilby was pastor. In 1955 another classroom was added for the youth group while Rev. R. C. Woodard was pastor. Some of our latest pastors were: Lawrence Hicks, Billy Owens, Henry Neal, Mitchel Sawyer, Rev. Reed, R. C. Woodard, and Oliver Lane.

We have ninety-six members on our church roll. Our property is valued at \$10,000.00.

DORRIS SMOTHERMAN, *Pastor*

LOUISE

CLARKSVILLE DISTRICT

The Louise Methodist Church was organized in October, 1893. At this time John C. Keener was bishop; W. B. Reams, presiding elder; and W. T. S. Cook was pastor.

The church was named after Miss Louise Gracey, daughter of Captain Gracey, who was a co-owner of the Gracey Woodward Iron Company.

In 1893 T. H. Batson gave the land for the church. Other contributing members were J. K. Raimey, Captain Gracey, A. L. Green, James Grimes, Fulton Murphy, and W. J. Black. The ladies contributed the furniture.

Carpenters were Obe Spradlin and George Talley.

The original location was near Lone Oak where the Immanuel Baptist Church is at the present time.

At the beginning there were only thirty-seven members, but by 1920 it had increased to 220. We now have sixty-five members.

B. H. BRANDON, *Pastor*

BETHEL

MURFREESBORO DISTRICT

The Bethel Methodist Church was established at its present site in 1896. The land for the church building was given by James Sartin. The church was named by his wife, Isabella. The building that was constructed on this site is still being used today. A. A. Campbell served as the first superintendent of the Sunday school, and continued to serve until his death in 1919.

In recent years new pews have been purchased for the church. At the present time the church has about eighty members. It is now a part of the Pelham Charge.

DORRIS SMOTHERMAN, *Pastor*

DICKERSON ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

NASHVILLE DISTRICT

Bishop Roy H. Short appointed Rev. W. Oliver Largen the minister of the Dickerson Road Methodist Church September 4, 1955. There were no Church members nor even a lot selected. The

Nashville District Location Committee finally selected the 148-year-old Philips Residence, known across the years as "Sylvan Hall," with 2.4 acres with the Conference Board of Missions and Church Extension and the Nashville District Board of Mission and Church Extension approving this location. The Folk-Jordan Real Estate Company sold the property for \$20,000, \$5,000 cash.

Location: The property is six miles from Nashville, 500 yards west of the Dickerson Road on Westchester Drive. The 421-acre tract of land being developed is now known as "Bellshire Estates." There are ten rooms and basement in the residence. The building is listed in the "Book of Historical Homes" produced in 1911. It was built in 1808 and remained in the Philips family 120 years. It is well located for this growing community.

A former member of the Tennessee Annual Conference, Rev. E. M. Harrell, owned this farm from 1922 to 1933.

First Service: Sunday, November 20, 1955, the first worship service was held with about fifty people present. Mrs. Beulah W. Lagen transferred her membership and thus became the first member of this new congregation.

Present Membership: The next Sunday, November 27, quite a few more people united with the Church. The members are: Mrs. Beulah W. Lagen, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Bachman and daughter, Kathrine; Mrs. Virgie Bachman, Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Overton, Mrs. Mae Bush, Mr. and Mrs. Fowler Brown, and daughter, Chloe; Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Reinhardt; Mrs. Betty Newlin, Miss Aline Newlin, Marshall Newlin, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pearre, Mrs. Grace Santi, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd T. Santi, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Owen Hodges, and son, Read; Mr. and Mrs. Billy Martin, Charles L. Goodrum, Mrs. R. C. Bradford, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Qualls. There are thirty-two members at present.

The Official Opening Of The Church: This service was held Sunday, January 1, 1956. The Rev. Lagen preached at the 11:00 A.M. hour on the subject: "Our Faith In The Church." The Rev. W. C. Westenberger, Nashville District Superintendent, brought the afternoon message and consecrated the membership of the Church. This was a great day in that another new church was organized.

First Official Board: The Official board and other officers are the following persons: Stewards are Billy Martin, Fowler Brown, Mrs. R. C. Bradford, Owen Hodges, and Charles Goodrum. Trustees are Howard Bachman, O. L. Reinhardt, and Robert Pearre. Church School superintendent, Howard Bachman. Chairman of the Board, Owen Hodges, and church treasurer, Mrs. W. O. Lagen. The chairmen of the commissions are: Membership and evangelism, Fowler

Brown; Religious education, Mrs. Owen Hodges; Missions, Mrs. Grace Santi; Finance, Howard Bachman.

First Quarterly Conference: The date set for this meeting is March 11th.

Great Future for this Church: There will soon be 1500 homes within one mile of this Church.

METHODIST CHURCHES IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Re-Located, Re-Named, or Abandoned

ABANDONED, MOVED OR RENAMED

Cumberland—organized 1787, became Nashville in 1802, became McKendree 1832.

Hooper's Chapel—organized 1795 on White's Creek near Nashville, abandoned unknown.

Flemingburg—organized about 1802, became King's Chapel in 1815, became Triune in 1849. The building was destroyed by the Union soldiers in 1863, rebuilt on old foundation and dedicated in 1874. The Western Conference in 1806 voted to hold the 1807 session at Flemingburg and changed the place before the close of the Conference to Chillicothe, Ohio.

Strother's Meeting House—erected in 1800, near Cottontown in Sumner County. Entertained the Western Conference in 1802. Later moved one mile to Red River Pike and continued to be used for church purposes until 1857. (It was succeeded by a new building which was dedicated as "Bethel.") It was used as a crib in the center of a large shedded barn until 1831. The Committee on Historic Places and Relics bought and removed the building to Scarritt College campus where it was formally opened by Bishop H. M. DuBose, May 10, 1931. The movement was inspired by an historic address delivered by Bishop DuBose at the Annual Conference in Gallatin 1930.

College Hill—organized in 1835, South Nashville, became Andrew in 1843, moved, became part of Elm Street in 1867.

Elysian Grove—organized in 1848, South Nashville, Lebanon District, moved, became Mulberry Street in 1859, became part of Elm Street in 1867.

Edgefield—became Hobson Chapel in 1851.

Soul's Charge—year organized unknown, abandoned unknown.

Spruce Street—organized probably 1847, abandoned date unknown.

Bethel—successor to Strother's Meeting House 1857, disbanded 1949, property sold.

Park Avenue—Nashville, organized 1882, in home of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Tucker, near Watkins Park, moved to Charlotte Road and abandoned 1953.

Cherokee Park—Nashville, organized 1908, abandoned unknown.

Watkins Grove—organized 1898, merged with Belmont 1910.

Greenwood—Nashville, organized 1907, 28th and Jefferson, abandoned 1910.

Kimmins—organized 1901, merged with Bethel on Linden Circuit 1908.

Epsy—near Smyrna, date of organization unknown, merged with Smyrna 1872.

Shady Grove—became Hoover's Gap, united with Kelley's Chapel 1852.

Cook's Chapel—three miles south of Williamsport merged with Williamsport 1859.

Foster Street—Nashville, organized 1883, became McFerrin Memorial 1887, became part of Meridian Street 1924.

Alex Erwin Memorial—Nashville, organized 1897, became part of Meridian Street 1924.

- Pisgah—Maury County, organized 1810, abandoned 1953.
- McTyeire Memorial—Nashville, organized 1891 on Heiman Street, moved, became Buchanan Street 1913.
- Olive—near Smyrna, abandoned unknown.
- Midway—six miles south of Pulaski on Elkton Road, organized unknown, abandoned in 1885, parsonage built by Rev. W. B. Lowry was moved to Aspen Hill.
- Shaunte—on Forbus Circuit, became a union church, date unknown.
- Knight's—organization unknown, merged with Decherd about 1937.
- Bear Springs—between Dover and Erin, organized 1887, congregation did not have a clear title to property, disbanded several years ago.
- Fairfield—East Nashville District, organized unknown, abandoned 1905.
- Richland Park—Nashville, organized 1884, abandoned 1896.
- Tramel—East Nashville District, organized 1895, abandoned 1897.
- Elkmont Springs—organized 1898, transferred to the North Alabama Conference 1900.
- Marcella Falls—organized 1900, abandoned 1903.
- Frazer Mission—Nashville, mission of West End, organized unknown, abandoned 1912.
- Clifton and Bytown—Nashville, organized unknown, abandoned 1884.
- El Dorado—Murfreesboro District, organized unknown, abandoned 1884.
- Goose Creek—Carthage District, organized unknown, abandoned 1890.
- Swan—Shelbyville District, organized unknown, abandoned 1884.
- Dryden Chapel—Shelbyville District, organized unknown, discontinued 1900.
- Pope and Mt. Zion—Franklin District, organized about 1883, abandoned 1891.
- Saline—Clarksville District, organized unknown, abandoned 1900.
- Coats Town—Murfreesboro District, organized unknown, abandoned 1887.
- Harpeth Station—Franklin District, organized unknown, abandoned 1895.
- Douglas—Franklin District, organized unknown, abandoned 1900.
- Rees's Chapel—near Franklin, organized unknown, entertained the Tennessee Conference 1813, abandoned unknown.
- Mill Creek—near Nashville, organized about 1830, abandoned about 1880. (There was a Mill Creek Circuit 1834-44.)
- Edney's Chapel—organized 1809, property sold and proceeds placed in Belleview Methodist Church in 1910.
- Greenland—Nashville District, organized unknown, disbanded 1883.
- Vale Mills—Giles County, organized 1830's, became Trinity 1847.
- Hurricane—Columbia District, organized 1887, became Burkes 1900, abandoned 1915.
- Oak Hill Mission—Lebanon District, organized 1908, became Oakley Mission 1919, discontinued 1920.
- Bethlehem—near Smyrna, organized unknown, abandoned unknown.
- Bakerville—organized unknown, became Liberty 1884 on Waverly Circuit.
- Goodrich—organized 1885, merged with Nunley 1925.
- Buffalo—organized unknown, abandoned about 1920—near Belleview.
- Pinewood—organized unknown, moved to Kidron on Nunley Circuit unknown.
- Napier—organized unknown, abandoned about 1916.
- Nixon—Hardin County, organized 1900, became Wesley's Chapel on Barnhill Circuit unknown.
- Pisgah—near Flat Creek, organized 1900, merged with Singeton, now on Marble Plains Circuit.

INSTITUTIONS IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE

- Summerfield—Organized unknown, storm destroyed building, members moved to Morton Memorial, Monteagle unknown.
- Brown's Chapel—organized unknown, abandoned in the 1920's, Lincoln Mission.
- Mt. Hermon—organized unknown, Lynchburg Circuit, abandoned in the 1920's.
- Shiloh—Wartrace Circuit, organized unknown, abandoned unknown, property sold and proceeds used in the erection of the Chapel at Beersheba Springs, 1948.
- Quebeck—organized unknown, abandoned 1896, members moved to Doyle unknown.
- Bilbo Avenue—Nashville, organized 1885, became South Street 1892, became South End 1909.
- Guthrie—organized prior to 1896, transferred to the Louisville Conference 1900.
- Olive Hill—building purchased from Church of Christ 1919, abandoned.
- Laurel Hill—Savannah District, organized unknown, abandoned 1887.
- Lowryville—Hardin County, organized unknown, became Cherry's Chapel 1904. (Rev. Dean Stroud was born here October 8, 1900, when his father, Rev. W. A. Stroud, was pastor.)
- Winn's Chapel—Nashville, organized 1900, was moved and name changed to Craig Memorial 1926, merged with St. John 1950.
- Filmore—Nashville, organized 1892, became Hermitage Avenue 1933.
- Sawrie's Chapel—Nashville, organized 1871, became North High about 1883, was moved and became Monroe Street 1906.
- Hollandale—organized unknown, abandoned unknown, building sold and proceeds used in Smyrna church.
- Old Smyrna—organized unknown, abandoned unknown, members transferred to Brentwood, materials in building used in Brentwood church.
- Turnersville—organized unknown, flood wrecked building in 1940, lot was sold and members transferred to Cedar Hill 1941.
- Walnut Grove—near Whiteside, organized unknown, abandoned 1951.
- Hebron—near Nolensville, organized 1882, abandoned 1950, sold to the Baptists 1952.
- New Hope—Williamson County, organized unknown, abandoned unknown, sold to the Baptists 1954.
- Baker's—organized unknown, became Luton's Chapel prior to 1931, Cumberland District.
- Harris Chapel—near Gladeville, organized unknown, abandoned 1953. (Poorly located.)
- Bold Springs—organized unknown, abandoned in the late 1930's, members moved to Water Valley, McEwen Circuit.
- Elora—organized unknown, abandoned in 1920's.
- Wolf Hill—Cumberland District, organized unknown, abandoned unknown.
- Coleman's Church—organized unknown, inactive, property held by Winchester Methodist Church.
- Gillis Mills—organized unknown, merged with Abrams 1939 with unification.
- Gordonsburg—organized unknown, disbanded with closing of phosphate mines in early 1930's.
- Byrdstown—organized unknown, merged with Disciples of Christ when Dale Hollow Larger Parish was organized in 1949.
- Rome—organized unknown, merged with Mt. Olivet on the Good Hope Circuit 1946.

- South Port—Bigbyville Circuit, organized unknown, abandoned 1937.
- Duncan—organized unknown, abandoned unknown, members affiliated with Mt. Carmel on Clifton Circuit.
- Belfast—did not own property, members transferred to Shiloah on the Rich Valley Circuit.
- Vernon—organized unknown, abandoned unknown, members transferred to Nunnelly.
- Midway—on Neelys Bend Road three miles east of Gallatin Road result of the uniting City Road Chapel and McFerrin's Chapel August 5, 1871, destroyed by fire 1899, rebuilt on corner of Neelys Bend and Gallatin Road and original name restored September 3, 1899.
- Wright's Chapel—near the Hermitage, organized prior to 1830, relocated on Stewart's Ferry Pike and renamed Stoner's Lick Methodist Church 1843, removed and renamed Dodson Chapel 1858.
- Macedonia—Lobeyville Circuit, organized unknown, jointly owned with the Presbyterian Church, sold to Presbyterians, building lot retained.
- Flatwoods—about five miles north of Lawrenceburg, organized at Park Grove 1911, moved to Flatwoods 1921, abandoned 1936.
- Howards Chapel—north of Ethridge, organized 1914, abandoned 1926.
- Mt. Olivet, near Columbia—organized unknown, abandoned unknown, merged with Riverside 1946.
- Elk Valley—organized unknown, abandoned unknown, sold 1947, members transferred to Lynville and Cornersville Methodist Churches.
- Stribbling—Standing Rock Circuit, organized unknown, abandoned in the 1930's.
- Barr's Chapel—Kingston Springs Circuit, organized unknown, abandoned unknown, sold 1953.
- Hazlewood—organized unknown, abandoned unknown, sold 1949.
- Horton's Chapel—Standing Rock Circuit, organized unknown, merged with St. Mary's.
- St. Mary's—organized unknown, discontinued 1951 on account of building Kentucky Lake. Reactivated and moved three miles east 1953.
- Lost Creek—organized unknown, discontinued 1951 on account of building Kentucky Lake, building and land sold 1953, members united with new St. Mary's.
- Asbury, Duck Springs, Stamper's Chapel—organized unknown, disbanded in 1943 on account of building Fort Campell. (Federal Government action.) Members were scattered and memberships placed wherever they located.
- Spout Springs—organized unknown, abandoned 1937.
- Lick Creek—organized unknown, abandoned 1947.
- Morrison—organized unknown, became Sango unknown.
- Sylvia—organized unknown, discontinued 1951.
- Briggs Chapel—organized unknown, abandoned 1942, sold 1949. (Nunnley Circuit.)
- Belmont, Lawrenceburg—organized 1947, discontinued 1951, sold 1952.
- Abrams—organized unknown, Lutts Circuit, abandoned 1951.
- Cane Creek, Lobeville Circuit—organized unknown, abandoned 1952.
- Hurricane, Lobeville and Linden Circuits—organized unknown, abandoned 1945.
- Walnut Grove, Little Lot Circuit—organized unknown, merged with Mt. Pleasant 1953 on same circuit.
- Covey's, Savannah Circuit—organized unknown, abandoned 1951.
- Oak Grove, Savannah Circuit—services conducted in a schoolhouse, organized unknown, abandoned 1952.

INSTITUTIONS IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE

- Weakley Chapel—Nashville, located on Porter Pike, organized unknown, merged with Hobson Chapel 1873.
- Old Zion—organized 1875, became Green Morrow Memorial prior to 1893, became Jordonia Methodist Church 1897.
- Claiborne—Nashville, organized 1860, became Carroll Street 1874.
- Salem—Cumberland District, organized about 1845, became New Salem 1852, removed and became Orlinda 1891.
- Old Union—Cumberland District, organized 1840, became Mt. Pleasant 1850.
- Manskers Fort Station—organized 1797, became Walton's Camp Ground 1800, became Goodlettsville 1830.
- Salem—Bedford County, organized 1807, became Norvell's Camp Ground 1818, became Bell Buckle 1875.
- Mt. Zion—Williamson County, organized about 1850, moved and became Trinity 1865.
- Mt. Moriah—Lawrence County, organized 1820, became Henryville 1857.
- Ransom's Chapel—organized 1893, became Deason unknown.
- North's Chapel—organized 1850, abandoned unknown.
- Holts Camp Ground—organized 1840, became Center 1887, Rich Valley Circuit.
- Moore's Chapel—organized in the early 1880's and Knight's Camp Ground Methodist Church organized about 1880, united and became Pleasant Grove Methodist Church, October 2, 1929.
- Shiloh—organized 1885, destroyed by fire 1943, united with Liggetts Chapel, former Methodist Episcopal Church across the road 1899, later torn down and present-day Shiloh was erected in 1943.
- Hart's Chapel—organized unknown, and Burns organized unknown, became Whiteside 1882, Murfreesboro District.
- Greenwood—Murfreesboro District, organized unknown, became unknown.
- Salem Camp Ground—Bedford County, organized 1807, results of Camp Meetings Shelbyville Methodist Church was organized in 1820.
- Chestnut Oak Hill—Cookeville District, organized 1884, became Shipley 1930.
- Chappell Methodist Church—Franklin District, organized 1830, became Godwin-Chappell Methodist Church 1896.
- Benton Methodist Society—Maury County, organized 1810, became Santa Fe Methodist Church 1849.
- Buckeye Methodist Church—Moore County, organized 1842, became Friendship about 1880.
- Rock Creek Methodist Church—Coffee County, organized unknown, became Tullahoma unknown.
- Smith's Chapel—Cookeville District, organized as—1885—Methodist Episcopal Church, became a Methodist Church 1939, abandoned 1955.
- New Hope, Columbia District, fourteen miles from Franklin—organized 1830, became Glenn's Chapel 1886.
- Smyrna—Dickson County, organized 1810, moved one fourth mile, became Mt. Lebanon 1850.
- Old Zion—organized 1875, moved and became Jordonia Methodist Church 1895. (After it was moved the name was to be "Green Morrow Memorial" which was abandoned in favor of Jordonia.)
- West End Mission—organized 1869, became West End Methodist Church 1872.
- Mount Union—organized unknown, became Clarkrange about 1896.
- Portland Methodist Church—organized 1877, moved several blocks and became McKendree Memorial Methodist Church 1955.
- Talley's Chapel—Hardin County, organized 1870, became Eureka unknown.

- Hugh's Chapel—Columbia District, organized 1843, moved two and a half miles, became Beech Grove 1918.
- Chappell Methodist Church—Maury County, organized 1830, moved to Santa Fe Pike, became Godwin Chappell Methodist Church 1896.
- New Hope, near Columbia, organized 1951, became St. Luke 1953.
- Richland Methodist Church—organized 1810, became Pulaski 1823.
- "The Methodist Church"—Dickson County, organized 1820, moved two miles north, became Marvin's Chapel, removed to Burns, became Burns Methodist Church 1903.
- Harper's Ferry Methodist Church—Moore County, organized 1876, became Pleasant Hill about 1893.
- College Place—Murfreesboro, organized 1930, moved a few blocks, became St. Mark's 1947.
- Lawrenceburg Methodist Church—Lawrence County, organized 1824, became Lawrenceburg 1851.
- "Methodist Episcopal Church"—Lawrenceburg, organized 1892, became Coleman Memorial 1922.
- Mt. Moriah—Lawrence County, organized 1820, became Henryville Methodist Church unknown.
- Hagan's Chapel—Mt. Pleasant District, organized in 1860, became Fall River 1896.
- Smith's Chapel—Maury County, organized prior to 1820, moved became Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church 1830.
- Union Church—Lincoln County, organized about 1839, moved one mile, became Harms Methodist Church 1915.
- Amanda's Chapel—organized unknown, merged with Lone Oak 1908, Clarks-ville District.
- Fitzgerald Chapel—organized about 1878, became Tucker's Cross Roads un-known, located in the Cumberland District.
- Well's Chapel—organized 1845, became Martin's Chapel 1879, Joelton Circuit.
- Gill's Chapel—near Cornersville, organized unknown, abandoned 1955.
- Carmargo—Lincoln County, built by Methodist and Cumberland Presbyterian Churches 1888, Cumberland Presbyterian Church sold their interest to The Methodist Church 1940, abandoned 1955.
- Macedonia—Lincoln County, organized 1876, abandoned 1954.
- Smith's Chapel—Lincoln County near Coldwater, organized unknown, abandoned about 1900, members affiliated with Molino and Coldwater, sold to the Negroes and is in use today.
- Shiloah—Lincoln County, organized about 1870, moved a mile and a half and became Taft in 1910.
- Morrison's Chapel—Montgomery County, organized 1901, became Sango about 1906.
- Pleasant Hill—Sumner County, organized about 1810, moved 1869 and became Douglas Chapel.
- Drakes Meeting House—Sumner County, organized about 1796, moved and became Turner's Spring unknown, became Sander's Chapel 1830, became Saundersville Methodist Church 1867.
- Ridge Mission—organized 1849, became Sycamore Mission 1856, became Ash-land Mission, 1861, became Ashland Station 1877, became Ashland City Sta-tion 1950.
- Old Duth Chapel—near Springfield, organized unknown, became New Chapel 1908.
- Shaws Meeting House—organized 1836, became Pleasant View 1887.

INSTITUTIONS IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE

- Pleasant Plains—organized 1871, became Blanche 1889.
- Salem—near Adams, organized 1843, became Sadlersville unknown.
- Pleasant Grove—Wilson County, organized 1826, became Leeville 1904.
- Thomas Methodist Church, near Franklin—organized 1853, became part of Epworth Methodist Church 1909.
- North's Chapel, near Franklin—organized 1866, became part of Epworth Methodist Church 1909.
- Gowers Chapel—Davidson County, organized about 1812, relocated and became Centenary on Charlotte Pike 1885, relocated on Gower Road 1921, demolished by tornado 1928, re-erected and enlarged about 1930.
- Smith's Chapel, Lincoln County—organized 1860, sold to Negro Baptist Church 1912, membership moved two miles at Coldwater, erected a new building 1913, renamed the church Coldwater.
- McEwens Methodist Church—Williams County, organized 1849, moved and renamed Fernvale Methodist Church 1885.
- Ramsey Chapel, Fentress County—organized about 1880, moved two miles, renamed Springs Chapel 1887.
- Banks Chapel—Methodist Episcopal Church, organized 1893, merged with Ellis Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, South, organized unknown, became Maggart Methodist Church 1939.
- Ebenezer—on Dry Fork in Davidson County, organized about 1790, and Ewings Chapel on Ewing Creek in Davidson County, organized unknown, merged and became Alex Green Methodist Church in 1872.
- Polk's Chapel—organized about 1800, relocated and became Adams Methodist Church in 1870.
- Haye's Chapel—Methodist Episcopal Church, organized about 1850, became Peeled Chestnut Methodist Church with unification in 1939.
- Old Macedonia—White County, organized unknown, became Almyra Methodist Church in 1894.
- Cokesbury—near Carthage, organized unknown, became Elmwood about 1910. (For a story in connection with this church, read *History of the Tennessee Conference*, pages 91-93, by Carter.)
- Riddins Chapel—Coffee County, organized about 1850, relocated near Duck River and became Riverside Methodist Church 1921.
- Alfords Campground and Murry's Chapel, Wilson County—organized 1830, consolidated and became Pleasant Grove 1870.
- Jason Chapel—organized 1886 on Garner's Creek, destroyed by fire, date unknown, rebuilt, moved down the creek, now used by the Nazarenes, in its place a new building was erected in Tennessee City 1903.
- McWhirter's Methodist Church—organized about 1845 at Todd's Knob on Stones River, moved in 1870 on Donelson Pike and a two-story frame building erected, in 1904 moved to the present location on a two-acre plot, named changed to Price Memorial 1907, named changed in 1938 to Andrew Price Memorial.

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